

* Boone and Crockett Club * Chukar Chasers Foundation * Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife & Free-Roaming Horses * Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation * Ducks Unlimited * Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn * Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited * Muley Fanatics Foundation Sierra Front Chapter * National Wildlife Federation * Nevada Bighorns Unlimited * Nevada Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers * Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance * Nevada Trapper's Association * Nevada Wildlife Federation * Northern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife * Pope & Young Club * Property & Environment Research Center * Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation * Safari Club International * Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife * Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership * Wild Sheep Foundation * Wildlife Management Institute *

Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Chair
NV Assembly Committee on Government Affairs
Nevada State Capitol,
101 N Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Sportsman, Landowner, & Conservationist Opposition to SB 90

Dear Chair Torres:

We write in opposition to SB 90, a bill to designate the "wild mustang" as the official state horse of the State of Nevada. We respectfully request that your committee table this bill when it comes before you for action.

We appreciate the presence of some of these animals on the landscape, however, the overpopulation of horses and burros has resulted in the degradation of rangeland and health of native wildlife in our state. In our view, offering greater legitimacy to the inhumane, overpopulation of feral horses on the landscape of our state would be detrimental to our diligently managed wildlife and natural resources, as well as to the horses themselves.

Feral horse populations can double every four (4) years and in some extreme instances, populations on our states' Horse Management Areas can exceed ten (10) times the appropriate management levels. Adverse impacts to our native wildlife are equally extreme. These feral horses frequently intimidate and out-compete our native wildlife for forage and water. Increasingly rare and delicate riparian areas are monopolized by feral horses, which turns these once-lush meadows and seepage springs dry and desolate. Overpopulated feral horses are actively destroying the life blood of our state, our precious and limited riparian areas, spring sources, meadows, creeks, streams, and all that support these animals and plants. Professional wildlife managers at the Nevada Department of Wildlife list the overpopulation of feral horses as the second greatest impact to wildlife of greatest conservation need, including at-risk species like sage grouse.

Declaring "wild mustangs" our state symbol would be especially ironic, given their detrimental impacts to our other state symbols, like bighorn sheep, Indian rice grass, sagebrush, mountain

bluebird, and the Lahontan cutthroat trout (via horses' impact to Nevada's water quality and quantity).

We appreciate your consideration of this request and respectfully request that you table SB 90 when it comes before your committee.

Yours in Conservation,

Organizations:

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Ducks Unlimited
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Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited
Muley Fanatics Foundation Sierra Front Chapter
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Pope & Young Club
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Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Safari Club International
Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Management Institute

Individuals:

Rebecca Mills, Retired Superintendent Great Basin National Park
Kenneth E. Mayer, Former Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife