

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4356

To amend the Act commonly known as the Wild Free-roaming Horses and Burros Act to prohibit certain uses of aircraft with respect to the management of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2025

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. CISCOMANI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Act commonly known as the Wild Free-roaming Horses and Burros Act to prohibit certain uses of aircraft with respect to the management of wild free-roaming horses and burros, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wild Horse and Burro
5 Protection Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) As part of efforts to control equine popu-
2 lations under law, the Bureau of Land Management
3 is directed to humanely capture wild free-roaming
4 horses and burros for adoption.

5 (2) The use of helicopters to chase equines over
6 prolonged distances, usually on rough terrain, is par-
7 ticularly dangerous, and can frighten the animals
8 and lead to deadly situations, often miles from pub-
9 lic view.

10 (3) Public observation of roundups is typically
11 limited, thereby restricting public access to the gov-
12 ernment operation.

13 (4) Scientific research shows that more humane
14 and cost-effective alternatives exist to control equine
15 populations, including fertility controls.

16 (5) Since fiscal year 2012, over \$69.5 million in
17 taxpayer dollars have funded roundup operations to
18 remove federally protected wild horses and burros
19 from the range.

20 (6) In the past five years (2020–2024), at least
21 \$36.7 million has been spent on roundups, including
22 over \$6 million paid to helicopter roundup contrac-
23 tors in fiscal year 2022 alone.

24 (7) Since 2012, the Bureau of Land Manage-
25 ment has administered fewer than 800 fertility con-

1 trol treatments per year on average. In fiscal year
2 2012, 1,045 treatments were applied; in fiscal year
3 2024, 1,038 treatments.

4 (8) Historically, the Bureau of Land Manage-
5 ment’s Wild Horse and Burro Program has spent
6 less than one percent of its budget on implementing
7 fertility controls.

8 (9) The elimination of helicopters from the Bu-
9 reau of Land Management’s gatherings would pro-
10 vide a more humane method of capturing equines,
11 and provide significant savings to taxpayers.

12 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE WILD FREE-ROAMING**
13 **HORSES AND BURROS ACT.**

14 Section 9 of the Act commonly known as the Wild
15 Free-roaming Horses and Burros Act (Public Law 92–
16 195; 16 U.S.C. 1338a) is amended—

17 (1) by striking “In administering this Act” and
18 inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—In administering this
19 Act”;

20 (2) by striking “helicopters or, for the purpose
21 of transporting captured animals, motor vehicles”
22 and inserting “motor vehicles for the purpose of
23 transporting captured animals or aircraft only in
24 compliance with subsection (b) of this section”;

1 (3) by striking “fixed-wing aircraft, or heli-
2 copters, or to” and inserting “or”; and

3 (4) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(b) PHASED ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN USES OF
5 AIRCRAFT.—In administering this Act, during the 2-year
6 period after the date of the enactment of the Wild Horse
7 and Burro Protection Act of 2025, the Secretary shall
8 phase out the use or contracts for the use of helicopters
9 or fixed-wing aircraft for the purposes of rounding up or
10 gathering wild free-roaming horses and burros, ensuring
11 an effective reduction in the reliance on these methods
12 each year until all such practices have been terminated.

13 “(c) REQUIREMENT FOR USE OF CAMERAS ON AIR-
14 CRAFT.—Any helicopter or aircraft used for the purposes
15 of rounding up or gathering wild horses and burros shall
16 be equipped with one or more cameras to record the
17 roundup or gather operation. The Secretary shall ensure
18 such footage is made available as part of the cor-
19 responding agency roundup or gather report.”.

20 **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT.**

21 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
22 of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit, to the
23 Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural
25 Resources of the Senate, a report that describes—

1 (1) humane alternatives to the use of heli-
2 copters and fixed-wing aircraft in managing wild
3 free-roaming horse and burro populations;

4 (2) job creation opportunities presented by the
5 use of such humane alternatives; and

6 (3) the effects of aircraft, including unmanned
7 aircraft systems, on wild free-roaming horse and
8 burro populations.

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