

## Call for Papers

### Special Topic: 50th Anniversary of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971



**Figure 1.** Wild horses (*Equus ferus caballus*) on the ridgeline within the Clan Alpine Herd Management Area, Nevada, USA (photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management).

In 1971, the U.S. Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. The Act provided wild horses (*Equus ferus caballus*) and burros (*E. asinus*; WHBs) on designated federal lands in the United States with legal protection. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service were given responsibility to manage WHBs in ecological balance with other designated land uses. Most recent nationwide wild horse and burro population estimates, as of March 1, 2020, were >95,000 WHBs in 177 BLM-administered herd management areas (Figure 1). This is >3 times the ecological balance of 27,000. Annually, WHB populations can increase 15–20%; thus, the current populations can double every 4–6 years. Increased populations of WHBs are impacting themselves, rangelands, wildlife, and public stakeholders who pay the costs. In the interest the sustainable management of WHBs, *Human–Wildlife Interactions* is interested in publishing a special topic issue celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971.

We are interested in publishing papers that synthesize the management, policy, human dimensions, and biological science that have contributed or can contribute to achieving sustainable WHB management in the United States and globally. In particular, we are interested in case studies of local community involvement in WHB management and policy, synthesis of the applications of fertility control in managing WHB populations, public knowledge and perceptions of WHBs and their management, and research evaluating the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of management options to achieve sustainable WHB management. We also encourage letters to the editor that share and describe local experiences in WHB management. Letters submitted would be limited to 4 pages of double-spaced copy to include a map of the area described.

For more information about the special issue, contact Terry Messmer, HWI editor-in-chief, at [terry.messmer@usu.edu](mailto:terry.messmer@usu.edu).

### Submit Your Manuscript

The submission deadline for contributing a research article, case study, opinion, commentary, or other manuscript for this special issue is **July 1, 2021**.

View the author submission guidelines and submit your manuscript online at [digitalcommons.usu.edu/hwi](http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/hwi).