

**COLORADO WILD HORSE WORKING GROUP (CWHWG)  
CHARTER - FINAL  
October 25, 2023**

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The Colorado Wild Horse Working Group was created by Senate Bill 23-275 to make recommendations on humane, non-lethal alternatives for wild and feral equines<sup>1</sup> that are taken off range in Colorado. Senate Bill 23-275 also allows the Colorado Department of Agriculture to provide state-level support for the existing work of local non-profit groups in delivering immunocontraceptives through darting and to support on-range stewardship of rangelands and wild horses.

Due to the interconnected nature of these efforts and the scope and scale of subsequent off-range care and adoption needed, the Wild Horse Working Group may make recommendations regarding other wild horse management topics, including fertility control, to the Colorado Department of Agriculture for implementation under SB 23-275.

The Wild Horse Working Group is a recommending body only. While its recommendations are expected to be highly influential in on- and off-range wild horse management in Colorado, the Working Group has no authority to bind or obligate the State or any Working Group members.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Senate Bill 23-275 identified the diverse stakeholders and interests to be represented in the Working Group. Members were appointed by the Governor, the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the Colorado State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Southern Ute Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and the US Forest Service Regional Forester. Each Working Group member may designate one alternate to attend meetings and participate in discussions and decision points if the member is unable to attend.

<i><b>STAKEHOLDER SEAT</b></i>	<i><b>WORKING GROUP MEMBER</b></i>	<i><b>ALTERNATE</b></i>
Colorado Governor's Office	Nicole Rosmarino	
Colorado Department of Natural Resources	Tim Brass	
Colorado Department of Agriculture	Les Owen	
Colorado Tourism Office	Andrew Grossman	
State Land Board	Abe Medina	William Woolsten
House Majority Leader's Designee	Rep. Barbara McLachlan	
House Minority Leader's Designee	Rep. Mike Lynch	Sen. Perry Will
Wild Horse Advocate #1	Tessa Archibald	
Wild Horse Advocate #2	Sandra Solin	
West Slope Resident	Tracy Scott	
Nonprofit Environmental Conservation Org.	Elise Lowe-Vaughn	
Rancher #1	Donald Broom	
Rancher #2	Callie Scritchfield	
Local On Range BLM Partner #1	Stella Trueblood	
Local On Range BLM Partner #2	Cindy Wright	Aletha Dove
Local On Range BLM Partner #3	Kathy DeGonia	Cindy Day

<sup>1</sup> This term is intended to be inclusive of members of a species of the genus equus that is free-roaming and is historically associated with Colorado and the western US. "Wild horse" includes wild, free-roaming horses and burros as defined under the federal Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act and any other feral horses, burros, and mules.

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Local On Range BLM Partner #4	Judy Cady	George Brauneis
Local On Range BLM Partner #5	TJ Holmes	
US Forest Service	Dwayne Rice	
Bureau of Land Management	Alan Bittner	
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	David Stoner	
Department of Corrections	Mitch Karstens	Kayla Shock
Southern Ute Tribe	Jason Mietchen	Tom Arthur

**WORKING GROUP MEMBER COMMITMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS**

The Colorado Wild Horse Working Group was established to work collaboratively to develop recommendations to improve wild horse management in Colorado. In order to deliver on this charge, Working Group members will hold themselves and one another to the following commitments and expectations.

- Attend all Working Group meetings; if unable to attend, ensure that designated alternate is informed and prepared to engage fully in the discussion and in any decision points.
- Share opinions, experiences, and ideas with honesty, respect, and kindness; be hard on problems but easy on people.
- Be open to new ideas and perspectives; acknowledging and understanding others' views can occur without acceptance or agreement with them.
- Commit to and participate in shared learning; the better the group understands, the better prepared it will be to find new solutions.
- Recognize that disagreement is part of the collaborative process and is important for healthy and thoughtful decision making; disagree without being disagreeable.
- Be forthcoming with concerns and counter-perspectives; the group cannot address issues it has not heard.
- Speak for yourself and those you may represent; do not presume to know what anyone else thinks, wants, or knows.
- Refrain from characterizing other Working Group members' positions, ideas, or perspectives outside of meetings; refrain from speaking on behalf of the Working Group or appearing to do so.
- Make every effort to avoid surprises; notify the Working Group of any upcoming statements, actions, or decision by you or your entity that may relate to the work of the Working Group.
- Commit to consensus building; work hard to find ways to bring others on board with proposals and be forthcoming with what it would take for you to support a proposal.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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The Colorado Wild Horse Working Group welcomes civil and constructive public comment. The Working Group anticipates that public comment will enhance members' understanding of issues and inform their decision making. Written public comment may be provided at any time at [CDA\\_wildhorseprogram@state.co.us](mailto:CDA_wildhorseprogram@state.co.us). The facilitation team will combine written comments into a single document and provide that document to Working Group members on a monthly basis. If requested by the Working Group, the facilitation team may also provide a monthly high-level summary of written comments.

Every full Working Group meeting will include 30 minutes for verbal public comment. Commenters must sign up prior to speaking. Each comment will be limited to 2 minutes. First-time commenters will have the opportunity to speak before individuals who have commented at previous meetings. The Working Group will hear as many comments as possible during the identified 30-minute window. Personal attacks, name calling, and profanity will not be tolerated and will result in a commenter's time concluding prematurely. All threats, verbal or written, will be referred to local law enforcement.

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**DECISION MAKING**

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In order to honor the interests and contributions of all stakeholders, the Working Group will strive to achieve consensus in all its decisions. Consensus means that all Working Group members can live with a decision, even if it is not their preferred outcome. Coming to a consensus decision requires that all Working Group members commit to creative problem solving and to revising and refining ideas to create as much opportunity for agreement and support as possible. Consensus is a high bar for decision making and will result from considerable deliberation and problem solving by Working Group members. Consensus decisions are expected to be the most impactful as they will reflect the greatest amount of agreement and the best work of committed stakeholders in wild horse management in Colorado.

Consensus also means that Working Group members will not block, fight, or disparage agreements during or outside Working Group meetings. If all Working Group members cannot commit to this, consensus has not been achieved. In the event that consensus cannot be achieved, the Working Group may make final decisions through majoritarian voting. A proposal will "pass" and be part of Working Group recommendations when supported by a two-thirds majority of Working Group members (or designated alternates) present during the meeting. If the Working Group resorts to voting, the primary considerations for majority support and minority opposition will be clearly articulated in meeting summaries, recommendation documents, and final reports submitted to the Colorado Legislature.

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**THE ROLE OF THE FACILITATION TEAM**

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It is the role of the facilitator to ensure a safe and constructive collaboration environment during all meetings. The facilitator will develop agendas based on the ideas and preferences of the Working Group. The facilitator will enforce the Working Group commitments and expectations outlined above in a respectful, neutral, and even manner. It is not the job of the facilitator to advance or support any individual position, idea, or outcome. It is the job of the facilitator to ensure that all

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member voices are heard and treated with respect. The facilitator will also ensure that all public commenters and their perspectives are heard and treated with respect.

The rest of the facilitation team supports the Working Group by assisting with meeting planning and preparation and documentation. The facilitation team will provide members with a draft summary within a week of each meeting. Meeting summaries will capture key discussion themes, decisions, action items, and next steps. Except for presentations or stated official positions of an agency or organization, summaries will not attribute comments to individual members. Working Group members will provide any suggestions for change to a draft summary within a week of receiving it. Members will refrain from editing the contributions of others as captured in draft summaries and proposing content to be added to summaries that was not shared during the meeting. Working Group members and alternates will not share draft documents outside of the Working Group membership. Final documents are public information and may be shared widely.