

◆ Life or Death on Public Lands:

Why BLM's Euthanasia Policy (PIM 2021-007) Deserves Review and Reform

📄 WHAT IS PIM 2021-007?

This is an internal policy issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) outlining **when and how wild horses and burros may be euthanized** in the field or in holding facilities. It applies to federally protected animals on public lands across the U.S.

⚠️ WHY IT'S CONCERNING:

- Euthanasia decisions may be made without a veterinarian present or consulted
- Some criteria (e.g., “poor prognosis,” “chronic weight loss”) allow for subjective interpretation.
- There is no standardized requirement for a second opinion or public reporting
- Oversight and review mechanisms are limited

These are public animals – WILD animals. Life-or-death decisions should be held to the highest standard.

📋 WHAT THE POLICY ALLOWS:

Horses or burros may be euthanized for:

- ☑ Severe trauma or deformities
- ☑ Blindness
- ☑ Advanced arthritis
- ☑ Chronic weight loss
- ☑ Neurological conditions
- ☑ Behavioral issues or “poor prognosis”
- ☑ Old age

Some of these are valid medical concerns. Others leave **too much room for interpretation** in the field.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE:

We are calling for **humane and science-based revisions** to PIM 2021-007:

1. **Clearly define “emergency” circumstances**
 2. Require **veterinary evaluation** for non-emergency cases
 3. Mandate **written documentation** and **reviewable records**
 4. Require post-incident review of euthanasia decisions
 5. Establish **independent oversight**
 6. Improve **public transparency** and reporting
-

TAKE ACTION:

- Contact your lawmakers: Ask them to **review and reform** PIM 2021-007.
 - Share this issue with your network.
 - Support groups that advocate for **ethical, science-based wild horse management**.
-

 **"Wild horses deserve compassionate care, not rushed decisions in the shadows."**

For More Info:

Kerry L Ferguson

Executive Director

The Cloud Foundation

kerry@thecloudfoundation

719-203-8321