

◆ 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."**

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