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## **ELF Takes Action Against Bureau Of Land Management Wild Horse Holding Facility**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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SUSANVILLE, CALIFORNIA The Earth Liberation Front has taken credit for the setting of timed incendiary devices at the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Litchfield Wild Horse and Burro Facility on October 15th. The resulting fire caused approximately \$85,000 in damages when a barn was burnt to the ground.

In addition, the group cut through four 60-foot sections of wooden fence on corrals holding more than 200 wild horses in an attempt to liberate them from the BLM.

The BLM program of removing horses and burros from public lands is a massively funded venture predicated on the lie that these animals are a threat to habitat needed for domestic livestock. Although the the BLM is charged with protecting wild horses and burros under the Wild Horses and Burros Act (passed in 1971), they also operate a highly subsidized grazing program under which millions of cattle and sheep graze public land. This creates an obvious conflict of interest. The BLM claims that rangeland is being overgrazed by wild horses and burros even though they are outnumbered by domestic livestock by at least a 50 to 1 ratio. This year, the BLM's budget was increased by \$9 million in order to facilitate the removal of tens of thousands more animals from the land.

The fact is in many cases, the BLM is operating illegally when it removes these animals from the land. In 1971 when the Wild Horses and Burros Act was passed, 303 herd areas were identified throughout the states where wild horses

could roam free. Since then the BLM has eliminated all wild horses in 119 of these areas.

In addition - although the BLM promotes itself as "adopting" out wild horses it rounds up - the reality is that there are few standards and little follow-up on those who adopt the animals, and the number of adopters for domestic purposes is very small. According to an Associated Press article, up to 90% of these "adopted" animals have gone to slaughter for meat and other animal products.

The BLM is currently facing lawsuits launched against its record of lies and broken promises.

The action undertaken by the ELF is just one of a long series of actions and protests taken against the Bureau of Land Management facilities and programs.

In closing its communiqué, the ELF states "In the name of all that is wild we will continue to target industries and organizations that seek to profit by destroying the Earth."

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