

**JOINT PRESS RELEASE
REGARDING THE CALICO COMPLEX WILD HORSE GATHER**

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The above listed groups (Calico Coalition) have produced this joint press release regarding the Calico Complex horse gather that is currently ongoing in Northern Nevada. Members and leaders from all four groups made on-the-ground observations of the problems associated with the overpopulation of horses within the Complex well before the gather was scheduled. The groups have, and continue to, publically support the gather to get horse populations within appropriate management levels.

The Calico Coalition fully supports the presence of horse on public lands. However, active management of horse and burro herds must be conducted in accordance with the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act. The Act requires that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manage horses in a "thriving ecological balance" and in accordance with other multiple use mandates. This includes keeping an inventory of horse populations on public lands and immediate removal of excess animals.

A recent ruling against an injunction on the Calico gather reaffirmed the BLMs authority and duty to gather excess horses. Since the ruling there has been a very well orchestrated public campaign to halt the gather despite its accordance with applicable laws and reaffirmation by a Federal District Court. The subsequent media campaign has produced a public outcry that has not always been based on factual information. Furthermore, the debate has wrongly been narrowed and framed as a clash between the horse advocates and public lands rancher.

The Calico Coalition was formed to assert what we believe matters most in this debate! That is the **health and long-term sustainability of the native wildlife and ecosystems within the Calico Complex**. These four groups have united in order to call everyone's attention to doing what is best for our public lands that we collectively treasure. Please review the attached information and contact any of the listed individuals for further information.

Attachments: Statements from each of the above listed groups, photos of native wildlife and ecosystems of concern, opinion denying motion for preliminary injunction of the Calico Gather