



JUNE 11-13, 2026

Nevada State Fairgrounds

Reno, NV

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Nevada Association of Counties

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February 26, 2026

National Wild Horse and Burro Program
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
9828 31st Avenue
Attn: Dorothea Boothe WO-260
Phoenix, AZ 85051

Dear Ms. Boothe:

The Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) is the Statewide Association that represents all seventeen of Nevada's Counties and we are writing to support the nomination of Former Lincoln County Commissioner and past NACO President, Varlin Higbee for a seat on the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. Management of wild horses and burros on our nation's public lands is a top priority for NACO and our membership. Mr. Higbee has been extensively involved in issues related to the Wild Horse and Burro (WHB) populations on the western range for decades. We believe his breadth of knowledge and experience would enable him to provide important insights and information to the WHB Advisory Board.

Mr. Higbee is a fifth-generation rancher in Lincoln County, Nevada and expertly stewards the land that has been passed down through generations of his family. He combines this knowledge of on-the-land livestock and rangeland management with his experience working with a variety of stakeholders in his community and across our state. Mr. Higbee served honorably as a county commissioner and an engaged public servant. He still serves his community and Nevada in several other capacities, including the NACO Committee of the Emeritus and the board for the Nevada Department of Agriculture. Former Commissioner Higbee is respected for his deep knowledge, and the trust that he has earned with colleagues across stakeholder groups and political parties.

Mr. Higbee also has extensive firsthand knowledge of the WHB issue and the population's impacts on Nevada rangeland. He has been involved in raising and training horses his entire life. He witnessed firsthand the impacts that WHB overpopulation has had on his family's ranch, adjacent grazing permits, and across the rangeland itself. He contributed extensively to "The Path Forward for Management of BLM's Wild Horses and Burros" proposal that was prepared and submitted to Congress by a broad coalition of stakeholders. Nevada is by far the state most impacted by WHB overpopulation, and we thus feel it is of quintessential importance that Nevada ranchers, wildlife specialists, and rangeland ecosystem specialists hold seats on the BLM's Advisory Board. Former Commissioner Higbee has deep knowledge across all these sectors. In particular, he can provide valuable and thoughtful insights regarding the intersections of livestock and WHB populations from the state where those intersections are the most critical and where the WHB impacts are most pronounced.

We respectfully request that you appoint Varlin Higbee to the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board to fill the Livestock Management category of interest. Thank you very much for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at vguthreau@nvnaco.org, or by phone at (775) 883-7863.

Respectfully,

Vinson Guthreau
Executive Director

Mark Gardner
NACO Board President
Douglas County Commissioner

Draft



COUNTY	TOTAL ACRES	POPULATION (2023 Census)	SRS PAYMENT (Fiscal Year 24)	2025 PILT PAYMENT
Carson City	42,807	58,923	\$ 9,242.77	\$ 144,394.00
Churchill	2,135,098	26,940		\$ 3,071,354.00
Clark	4,718,766	2,361,285	\$ 168,170.86	\$ 4,558,495.00
Douglas	256,039	54,343	\$ 20,146.46	\$ 878,917.00
Elko	7,903,988	57,538	\$ 791,576.08	\$ 4,213,774.00
Emeralda	2,253,155	1,067	\$ 49,772.38	\$ 171,185.00
Eureka	2,157,256	1,776	\$ 143,634.17	\$ 445,871.00
Humboldt	4,978,471	17,696	\$ 206,999.64	\$ 2,299,886.00
Lander	3,332,300	6,121	\$ 122,172.14	\$ 1,306,902.00
Lincoln	6,387,803	4,808	\$ 30,020.86	\$ 1,035,482.00
Lyon	859,089	63,179	\$ 266,501.35	\$ 2,858,609.00
Mineral	1,937,210	4,842	\$ 367,910.48	\$ 968,014.00
Nye	8,548,039	52,478	\$ 2,415,669.53	\$ 4,271,413.00
Pershing	2,918,834	7,464		\$ 1,306,902.00
Storey	14,474	4,454		\$ 50,033.00
Washoe	2,934,935	508,759	\$ 40,200.50	\$ 4,622,177.00
White Pine	5,185,703	10,005	\$ 461,613.82	\$ 1,598,415.00
TOTAL	56,563,967	3,241,678	\$ 5,093,631.04	\$ 33,801,823.00

***Reflects the acreage amounts used in the calculation of PILT payments each year