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SENATOR FEINSTEIN

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DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
CALIFORNIA**United States Senate**

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>  
September 20, 2005

The Honorable Gale Norton  
Secretary, Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton,

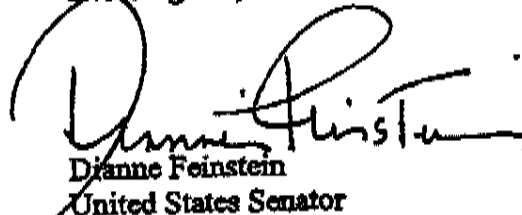
I have learned that the National Park Service is conducting a round-up of wild burros within the Mojave National Preserve this week. As the author of the California Desert Protection Act, I write to express my deep concern regarding the removal of wild burros from the Mojave National Preserve. I strongly believe that wild burros are a part of the heritage of the Mojave—having been present in this area since California's Gold Rush—and a population of wild burros should be maintained within the Mojave National Preserve's boundaries.

According to the Superintendent of the Mojave National Preserve, the National Park Service intends to only remove wild burros from the 73,000 acres affected by the summer fires. I request the Department of the Interior's firm commitment that you limit the removal of wild burros to those found within the areas affected by these summer fires.

While I understand that the wild burro population must be managed in order to ensure that forage is available for cattle and wildlife, I want to be on record as expressing my support for maintaining a viable and self-sustaining population of these wild burros in the Mojave National Preserve and I oppose any efforts to remove such a population. I urge the elimination of the management goal in the Mojave National Preserve's General Management plan to "remove all burros from inside the boundary and implement actions, to the extent practicable, to ensure that they do not enter." Should the National Park Service consider any steps to accomplish this management goal, I wish to be immediately informed before these actions are taken.

The Mojave National Preserve is dear to me and I want to ensure that its rich heritage is maintained for generations to come. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Best Regards,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

DF: jw: ac