

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 27, 2024 11:42:24 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 11/27/2024 11:42:17 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Alison Hardenburgh
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	7
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Favor
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I support the Fence project to keep the Virginia Range feral horses out of the wildlife management area at Washoe Lake and off the roads. These horses have destroyed a sensitive nesting area set aside for birds and waterfowl. They are a hazard on the roads and should be confined to their range in the hills and not allowed in the valley. They are grossly overpopulated and mismanaged. They should not be in neighborhoods and on the streets eating garbage and defecating all over parks and lawns. They are currently overpopulated and should not be allowed to expand their territory beyond their original range.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 11/27/2024 11:42:17 AM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 27, 2024 3:19:02 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 11/27/2024 3:18:59 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	John McLennan
Organization	N/a
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	
State	
Zip code	
agenda_number	7
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Favor
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I wanted to voice my support for the Department of Agriculture's proposal for building a fence to keep the horses out of Scripps Wildlife Management Area and Washoe Lake in Washoe Valley. Scripps Wildlife Management Area is public land that was purchased in 1957 to develop and maintain goose nesting habitat and yearlong habitat for other wetland associated avian species. It's closed from mid February to mid August for these reasons but the horses go in and disturb the wetland avian species unchecked. The horses have a detrimental effect on the waterfowl nesting habitat and are very harsh on the sensitive wetland ecology. The land was established to protect the wetland wildlife well before the population of the horses rises to unsustainable levels. It is our responsibility to protect the waterfowl and the very limited wetlands that our great state is very fortunate to have. Please protect our wetlands and waterfowl so generations of Nevadans can cherish this limited natural resource. In addition to protecting these wetlands, a fence would also limit dangerous human/horse interaction, particularly in vehicular accidents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 27, 2024 11:27:22 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 11/27/2024 11:27:16 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Marcelle Marlow
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Sparks
State	Nevada
Zip code	
agenda_number	6
agenda_letter	C
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I am appalled at the situation where the Dept of Agriculture is going to fence off the water to the mustangs in Washoe Lake Area. What gives you the right to do this without a vote from the county.of tonight. As usual. The government trying to do things behind the peoples backs.</p> <p>I also hear that the meeting is in Las Vegas and zoomed to Sparks with no speakers or voices to be heard opposed to this atrocity.</p> <p>The meeting is Dec 6 at 9am in the Sparks Dept of Agriculture office. Please allow the people to be heard and delay this action</p>

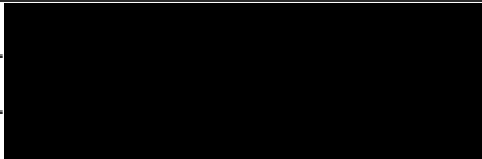

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**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, November 28, 2024 1:05:16 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 11/28/2024 1:05:11 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Cody knight
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Washoe valley
State	Nv
Zip code	
agenda_number	7
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	Please remove or thin out the wild horses on Washoe. They are ruining feed and water quality.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 11/28/2024 1:05:11 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, November 30, 2024 10:46:34 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 11/30/2024 10:46:29 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Betty Savini
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	DAYTON
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	7
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Favor
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I am writing to support NDA's fencing project. The fencing is desperately needed for public safety, animal welfare, the Scripps/Migratory Bird Nesting area. The horses have destroyed that area of Washoe Lake. The number of horses getting hit by cars is out of control - it's not right for the horses nor the drivers. The horses were never down at Washoe Lake until around 2017 - they were always up in the hills where there are natural water sources. The VRE Horse Management Program implemented in 1997 focuses on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Public Safety and animal welfare;</li><li>2. Maintenance of a healthy and sustainable estray horse population in the Virginia Range and</li><li>3. establishment of a cooperative agreements with non-profit groups to facilitate the adoption and proper care of the estray horses removed from the Virginia Range.</li></ol> <p>It was determined in 2000 after the NRCS study that 500-600 was the appropriate number of horses. In 2000 NDA &amp; VRWPA agreed to 550 horses for the entire Virginia Range area. Currently there are 3,500+ horses. These are violations of the VRE Management Program. Let's do what is right by the horses, wildlife, range, Washoe Lake, drivers and get the horses fenced out of these areas and where they belong in the hills.</p> <p>Thank you, Betty Savini 2nd generation Nevadan - born and raised in the Reno/Carson City area so I know exactly how it was with the Virginia Range horses before they became grossly overpopulated.</p>

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, November 30, 2024 11:08:36 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 11/30/2024 11:08:28 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Rodney Savini
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	DAYTON
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	7
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Favor
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I wish to voice my support of the fencing project that NDA is conducting to keep the Virginia Range horses off the roadways and Washoe Lake area/Scripps Wildlife area. The horses are creating a public safety issue as well as destroying the Washoe Lake areas. This fencing project is necessary for many reasons, the horses, drivers, range areas, wildlife/migratory birds.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rod Savini 2nd generation Nevadan</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 11/30/2024 11:08:28 AM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Sunday, December 1, 2024 8:17:40 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/1/2024 8:17:33 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Laura mayes
Organization	Self
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Stagecoach
State	Nv
Zip code	
agenda_number	7
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Favor
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I support the fencing project around washoe lake, after watching yet another horse get hit at night by a car, is locals are done. Many of us have been having our car insurance rates go up, and no one wants to hit these horses. For the safety of the horses and humans please fence out the mustangs! Keep them in the hills where they belong!

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/1/2024 8:17:33 AM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Sunday, December 1, 2024 12:31:45 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/1/2024 12:31:39 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	DANIELLE CADY
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	RENO
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>Dear NV Board of Agriculture members,</p> <p>I am reaching out in opposition of the 23-mile fencing project spanning through Washoe Valley. I am concerned about the lack of transparency and misuse of public funds. Fencing for horse &amp; public safety is a higher priority in other areas, such as Geiger, Toll, Veterans Pkwy, Damonte Ranch, Rio Wrangler. Fencing projects should be prioritized in this area first. Also, I am concerned about the State's plan for wildlife wellbeing. Wild horses have had access to Washoe Lake and surrounding water resources for generations, and now hundreds of horses will risk dehydration and death due to lack of year-round water. I am also curious to know the State's plan for relocation/removal of horses which will inevitably happen should this fencing project be complete. I also worry about other animals in this area, such as deer, coyotes, bears, which could be injured from the barbed wire fence and cut off from resources. If horse wellbeing was truly prioritized, I believe the NDA would be working in coordination with advocacy groups such as American Wild Horse Conservation and Wild Horse Connection. I urge you to please consider the impact of this fence and prioritize the wellbeing of wildlife and the environment. I am a Nevada native and have been blessed to call South Reno my home for 30 years. Our open spaces and wildlife are part of what makes this state so special- I hope we can continue to enjoy these beautiful places and animals for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>-Danielle Cady</p>



**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Sunday, December 1, 2024 3:57:21 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/1/2024 3:57:14 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Sara Riley
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Washoe Valley
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	1
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	Neutral
Wish to Speak	Yes
Comment	I completely, as many of us, are opposed to the fencing of Washoe Lake and the rehoming of our beloved wildhorses. This is uncalled for and plain inhumane! I have lived adjacent to the Lake over 40 years and I have never seen any harm due to them, people yes. They do allow sheep to graze there by choice. People come from all over to see these beautiful, gentle, horses living in their natural habitat as they have done long before any of us. Do the right thing and do not loose the respect of the local citizens. Thank you and many

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**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2024 8:37:12 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/2/2024 8:37:06 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Christina Nellemann
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Washoe Valley
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	Yes
Comment	<p>Hello. I am commenting on the agenda item about the fencing against the wild horses in Washoe Valley. My family and I have lived in the valley since the 1960s and enjoy having the horses as part of our daily view.</p> <p>Understandably, there are more of them now than ever and public safety and resource management is a concern.</p> <p>However, is there a way to maintain part of the herd within the Scripps Wildlife Management area? The herds are helpful in keeping down the invasive whitetop and weeds that act as fire fuels.</p> <p>They are also a big part of our tourism industry. Please keep them around.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Christina Nellemann</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/2/2024 8:37:06 AM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2024 1:43:45 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/2/2024 1:43:40 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Craig Downer
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Minden
State	Nevada
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	Yes
Comment	I think it's outrageous that the Nevada Dept. of Agriculture & Division of State Parks have decided to fence the wild horses off their long-standing habitat along the shores of Washoe Lake! This critical habitat provides these animals forage, water, shelter, etc., & they have been harmoniously adapting here to the benefit of many plant & animal species through soil building, intact seed dispersal, & a variety of other mutualistic symbioses. Nevada State officials should take steps to secure their place here by mitigating & preventing conflicts w/ traffic, particularly along East Washoe Rd. & elsewhere. I recommend putting in natural overpasses, more horse warning signs, & lowering & enforcing speed limits. Natural overpasses would be possible in several places, especially where contours of the foothills provide sturdy foundation. I recommend strategic fencing & rebarred cattle guards to prevent horses from entering areas of high risk so as to prevent collisions, etc. As to the horses' effects of wildlife, including birds, they should not be blamed for what people are doing with their vehicles, boats, hiking, littering, trash, & other ways of disturbing soils, plants, animals & the natural world. There should be a careful study of the relative effects & also of the positive benefits that the horses contribute to the ecosystem including ecotourist viewing! See my peer-reviewed study at: <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/274006946_The_Horse_and_Burro...">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/274006946_The_Horse_and_Burro...</a>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/2/2024 1:43:40 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2024 2:16:06 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/2/2024 2:16:01 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Karen Simas
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	9
agenda_letter	B
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I am opposed to putting a fence around Washoe Lake to keep the Wild horses out. These horses have been here for a long time and they are not causing any harm. They a key point to people visiting this area. They are not causing harm but provide beauty and comfort in these difficult times in this country.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Karen Simas</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/2/2024 2:16:01 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2024 2:57:26 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/2/2024 2:57:19 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Toni Neff
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	7
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I want to voice my opposition to the 23 mile fencing proposed for Washoe Lakes: Washoe Lakes &amp; surrounding water sources have been the primary water source for generations The State does not have a plan for alternative water sources for Washoe Lakes horses. Seasonal water is not sufficient. Impacted horses are at risk of dehydration &amp; death. **Safety/ fencing needs are higher in other areas of South Reno and should be prioritized (Geiger, Toll, Veterans Pkwy, Rio Wrangler, Damonte, Steamboat) There is a real concern about increased fire danger when horses are no longer grazing west of the new fence allowing flash fuels to grow uncontrolled on both private and public lands.</p> <p>Thank you for reading my concern, Toni Neff</p>

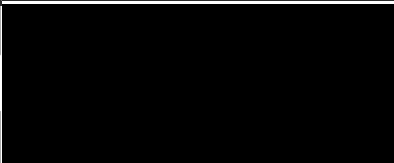

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/2/2024 2:57:19 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2024 7:58:31 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/2/2024 7:58:27 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Leslie Mix
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	This is a phenomenally disgraceful form of cruelty. Stop.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/2/2024 7:58:27 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2024 8:23:37 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/2/2024 8:23:33 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Teresa Gearhart
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I am against the removal of the Virginia Range horses from Washoe Lake. They will be cut off from a year round water source. I live off of Toll Road and the NDA needs to allow the Wild Horse Connection to provide diversionary watering and feeding to keep the horses in the Virginia Foothills away from major roadways over winter. Since the NDA stopped allowing WHC to provide diversionary feeding and watering the horses have gone to where they find grass. Unfortunately this is on Veteran's Parkway. The grass should be removed. We are in the desert. We do not need grass adjacent to roadways. This would remove a temptation for the horses. The NDA should also assist with darting female horses with birth control. The best plan is to work with the volunteers (WHC and AWHC) to figure out a plan that works for everyone. The horses have no ill intent like humans. They are just trying to survive. They have family structures and are intelligent. It is not their fault they are here.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>

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**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2024 8:37:27 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/2/2024 8:37:23 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	A Ryan
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Santa Monica
State	CA
Zip code	
agenda_number	5
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I am writing to oppose any fencing for the Washoe Lake because it would directly interfere with the wild horses ability to gain access to water year long which is essential for them. I would love to see the Virginia range horses treated with respect in this area and not compromise being pushed towards humans which will just lead to them being removed from the range and I think everyone's aware of that.

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**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 10:00:58 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/3/2024 10:00:48 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Anamaria Boustred
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Carson City, NV
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	Yes
Comment	I would like to voice my opposition to fencing the wild from accessing Washoe Lake. I drive to UNR four times a day and the highlight of my drive is seeing the wild horses congregate near the lake. I also see many cars pulled off to the side with people stopping to photograph all the various colors and sizes of the families. I have been asked by several people visiting UNR where the best place to see wild horses is, and I always point them in the direction of Washoe Lake area. It is after all on the corridor from Reno Airport straight to our Capital. Our state derives so much of its' income from tourism and to exclude the wild horses from being part would be foolish. Just yesterday, I had a woman say to me that "the best part of Nevada is the wild horses". Please listen to the majority of the residents who feel this way!

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**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 10:39:16 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/3/2024 10:39:10 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Danny Schenker
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	RENO
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	NV Agriculture Board, I am providing public comment in opposition to the Washoe Valley fencing project. Although I support measures which protect both Reno residents and wildlife, I am concerned that this fence does not actually promote safety or wellbeing among humans or the environment and the animals which inhabit Washoe Valley and surrounding areas. If decrease of human v. wild horse conflicts were the true purpose of this fence, I am confused why higher priority areas for fencing were not considered first - there is a higher need for fencing in South Reno areas including Geiger, Toll, Veterans Pkwy, Damonte Ranch. I would have loved to see funds & resources allocated to this project first. Plus, the fence in Washoe Valley prevents animals from access to resources needed for survival. I am worried about what will happen to the hundreds of Virginia Range horses who have called Washoe Lakes their home for generations. Where will these horses go? How will they survive without access to year-round water? Besides the horses, I am concerned about the negative impact of this barbed wire fence on other wildlife in the area and the environment as a whole. Barbed wire fences are dangerous for small animals, kids using this area to recreate. Also, there are not enough resources to maintain this fence. I am urging you to please be transparent about projects that impact our local community and environment, and to work in collaboration with the public and advocacy groups. Thank you for you time and consideration. -Danny Schenker, Ward 6

Resident

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/3/2024 10:39:10 AM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 10:50:38 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/3/2024 10:50:33 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Lisa Cady
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	RENO
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>To the Board of Agriculture Members- I am providing public comment in opposition of the Washoe Valley fencing project. I have resided in the Virginia Foothills for the past 40 years. I have seen the vast growth and development in this area and the devastating impact on our environment and wildlife who also call this place their home. I worry about this fencing project which does not take the public input, environmental and wildlife wellbeing, safety concerns into consideration. 400+ wild horses who have resided in Washoe Valley for generations will be cut off from water and food access. The State argues this fence is for the safety and wellbeing of the horses, but in reality, it prevents access to life-giving resources. Furthermore, if the horses are moved to another area, it creates safety concerns in a different area- the problem is not being fixed, it's just being moved to a different place. Plus, the horses help decrease wildfire concerns. The recent Davis fire highlighted the lack of our community's ability to respond in a timely and safe manner, and I worry about future wildfire threats especially if there is an increase in uncontrolled flash fuels. The maintenance of this 20mi+ fence will be demanding, and I am curious know the NDA's plan to fix, maintain, and monitor this fence. Too often, the maintenance of fencing falls on volunteer groups which also do not have the resources for the upkeep of this fence. I hope you consider ALL consequences of this fence before continuing the project, and allocate funds/resources to higher priority areas like the fencing project in South</p>

Reno- Geiger, Toll, Damonte, Rio Wrangler, Veterans,  
Steamboat where there is higher human/horse danger. Please  
work transparently and collaboratively with our Reno  
community and environmental/wildlife advocacy groups. I  
appreciate the ability to comment on this important matter.  
- Lisa Cady, Virginia Foothills Resident

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from  
[boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/3/2024 10:50:33 AM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 12:41:44 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/3/2024 12:41:39 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Iris Jehle-Peppard
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	Yes
Comment	<p>Dear Nevada Department of Agriculture,</p> <p>I am in extreme opposition to the 23 mile fencing through Washoe Lakes underway and proposed!</p> <p>Washoe Lakes in Washoe County and its surrounding water sources have been the primary water source for wild (or feral as you like to define them as) for generations. From my understanding, the State of Nevada does not have a plan for alternative water sources for these horses. Seasonal water is not sufficient. This proposed fencing will impact these horses and make them at risk of dehydration and death.</p> <p>Where is the NEPA permit to install this fencing?</p> <p>Why is the Nevada Department of Agriculture prioritizing this fencing instead of more suburban areas in South Reno (Geiger Way, Toll Rd, Veterans Pkwy, Rio Wrangler, and Damonte Lane) where the public and the horses are more at risk of injuries?</p> <p>How is this going to decrease wildfire risk? With fewer horses in Washoe Valley, there will no longer be as much grazing west of the new fence area, allowing fuels to grow uncontrolled on both private and public lands.</p> <p>Is your plan to manage these horses to exterminate them?</p>

As a tax paying citizen, I expect the Nevada Department of Agriculture to work transparently and in collaboration with wild horse advocacy groups such as Wild Horse Connection and American Wild Horse Campaign.

Sincerely,

Iris Jehle-Peppard (Washoe County resident)

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/3/2024 12:41:39 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 12:50:14 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/3/2024 12:50:07 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Ginger Peppard
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
	<p>Dear Board of Agriculture Members,</p> <p>This public comment is being submitted in relation to the proposed plan to installed approximately 23 miles of fencing around Washoe Lake to limit access for wild horses.</p> <p>My primary concern is the lack of transparency related to this project and the lack of coordination with grassroots advocacy groups, whose goal is ensure wild horses can remain in our communities with minimal impacts to the communities they are located near.</p> <p>Washoe Lakes &amp; the surrounding water sources have been the primary water source for the wild horse population in this area for generations. Horses, like many animals, learn where their resources are and return to those areas generation after generation. Blocking these areas would cause undue stress to these animals. The NDA has not demonstrated a solid and feasible plan to ensure that these animals have access to other sustainable water sources. While there are seasonal water sources nearby that may not be blocked by this fencing project, this project in its current form puts this population at risk for dehydration and death. The closest year-round water source for these horses is over 3-miles away, near Mound House. Additionally, rerouting this entire population puts undue stress on the ecosystem surrounding the alternative water sources and likely creates other issues by funneling a larger population to one area.</p>



Comment

There are other areas where collisions and other safety issues related to wild horses occur much more frequently and should be considered as priorities for fencing or other safety improvement projects, versus the Washoe Lake area. These areas are largely located in South Reno, such as: Geiger Grade, Toll Road, Veterans Pkwy, Rio Wrangler, Damonte, and Steamboat. Fencing and safety concerns for these areas should be a much higher priority than the Washoe Lake area.

While I understand that the NDA has a job to do and that we can't just let wild horses roam the streets for the safety of both humans and the horses, we can't forget that horses can play an integral role in the health of our ecosystem and we need to work collaboratively to ensure that they can continue to graze while also protecting the safety of the humans who share the space. Specifically, wild horse grazing can help the environment by preventing the overgrowth of grazes, such as cheatgrass, which helps improve local biodiversity and reduce the spread and intensity of wildfires. Additionally, their grazing activities help spread seeds of native plants and return nutrient-rich material to the soil, which helps stabilize soil and, again, reduce fire hazards.

The public is asking that the NDA and the State of Nevada provide more transparency around their planning and decision-making process and work collaboratively with grassroots advocacy groups such as Wild Horse Connection & American Wild Horse Campaign.

Best Regards,  
Ginger Peppard

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/3/2024 12:50:07 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 1:41:53 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/3/2024 1:41:47 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	christa mclaughlin
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Washoe Valley
State	Nev
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I have lived here for 45 years and the wild horses have always been a part of this valley. I love seeing them by Big and Little Washoe Lakes. They are a wonderful part of history in Northern Nevada. They know where to come for water because its been in their history. Cutting them off by putting fencing up to limit their access to water will kill them; not to mention cut them up trying to get to it. You should be using the fencing (not bobbed wire} in the Damonte Ranch area because you've overloaded that area with housing and people who don't want them there. These MUSTANG'S that you KEEP WANTING TO GET RID OF ARE NEVADA. I also don't think that Las Vegas should be deciding the fate of Northern Nevada. Christa McLaughlin

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/3/2024 1:41:47 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 2:36:27 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/3/2024 2:36:23 PM.

### Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Hillary Weise
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>Good Day to you all: I would like to voice my opposition to Fencing Horses OUT of washoe Lake state park. I realize that the road through the park is a busy one and unfortunately horses do get hit-but there *are* signs warning drivers of wildlife in the area.</p> <p>My concerns are two-fold: primarily, the concern is lack of access to year round water for the horses. I know there are other water sources-but from what I understand those sources are not reliable as year round sources and they are much farther to find. And the second concern is these horses know Washoe as their home. Many have been born there and are now raising their young there (sidebar: i am in no way opposed to population control via darting but that is another issue in itself :) ) Please just let them be.</p> <p>I work in a dialysis. I have a clinic in Reno and Carson City. One day a week or so I drive to my Carson City dialysis clinic. As I whiz by the park on the freeway in the mornings, out of the corner of my eye i am always scanning for the horses. Sometimes I am lucky to see the horses far off out in the fields. And it reminds me life doesn't have to be spent at the speed of light. the horses remind me it is ok to stop and eat the grass/smell the roses/..you get the message. :)</p> <p>But what I most enjoy though, is At the end of a stressful day, the absolute highlight of my day is getting to</p>

leisurely drive home through Washoe Park and see the horses. It is very calming. I take the freeway to work, but I always drive through the park on my way home. Sometimes I stop and observe. Other times It is enough to see them out and about and I carry on. Seeing the horses makes my little side trip worth it :)

I really cannot express how heart-broken I would be if I were not able to see the horses just being horses. Truthfully, I'm a bit heart-broken just thinking about it. So I respectfully ask that the funds ear marked for fencing be put to good use in other ways, PLEASE DO NOT FENCE THEM OUT!

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am hopeful for a good outcome for the horses, and for those of us who enjoy seeing them. Will I be contacted once the board reaches a decision on this matter? I would like to be.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/3/2024 2:36:23 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 3:41:53 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/3/2024 3:41:49 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Ruby Stover
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Fayetteville
State	North Carolina
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/3/2024 3:41:49 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 3:45:12 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/3/2024 3:45:08 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	JoAnn Quilici
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Carson City
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	7
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Favor
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I am writing to voice my support of Item 7A - the fencing project to keep the Virginia Range horses in the hills and out of the roadways and the Washoe Lake area. There have been too many horses hit by cars that it is creating a public safety issue. I'm afraid someone is going to be seriously injured or killed - not to mention the horses being injured/killed. Also, they have eaten down the Scripps Wildlife area to the ground. There are too many horses in that area affecting the Migratory Bird Nesting area. I have lived in this area for 82 years and I have never seen so many horses in neighborhoods and the around Washoe Lake. I like the horses but they need to be kept up in the hills away from the roads, people, houses and Washoe Lake. I appreciate your time in the matter and trust that you will continue to do what is right for all involved and get the fence done. Thank you. JoAnn Quilici - Native Nevadan</p>

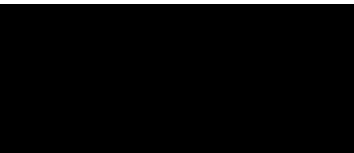

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/3/2024 3:45:08 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 5:04:15 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/3/2024 5:04:01 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Synnova Goodge
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Cohutta
State	GA
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I am against horses being fenced out of Washoe Lake. Fencing will keep horses from year around access to water.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/3/2024 5:04:01 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 9:22:41 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/4/2024 9:22:36 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Susanne Dubois
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	Nevada
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	Yes
Comment	I want to ask why the NDA is proposing 23 miles of fencing through Washoe Lake? Don't we have enough fencing in our beautiful areas that seem to keep people and wildlife prohibited to enjoy the resources needed to sustain life. If this fencing is installed it will cut off an important water source for our Washoe Lake Wild Horses. This has been their primary water source for generations. The State does not have an alternative source for water for our precious Washoe Lake Wild Horses and other wildlife that survive using this water source. It is devastating to think that the NDA would allow fencing any area that would harm our wildlife. This fencing has better use in South Reno to help control our Wild Horses from coming into neighborhoods on the street where they can potentially be killed by automobiles and reckless individuals. I am asking again what is the rationale for the fencing? If it is to squeeze out our Wild Horses from their water source causing them dehydration and possible death that is horrific and needs to be stopped. Being a taxpayer I don't want one dollar of my tax money going to a project to harm our wildlife

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/4/2024 9:22:36 AM.



**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 9:35:50 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/4/2024 9:35:45 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Leslie Wasserman
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Fountain Valley
State	CA
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	Regarding the fencing that will divert the wild horses.  Please do not divert the wild horses miles away with the fencing and into a location where horses trying to get water could get hit by cars. This is dangerous for the wild horses and the drivers.  Thank you.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/4/2024 9:35:45 AM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 9:59:35 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/4/2024 9:59:29 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Taunee Jensen
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Carson City
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
	<p>Nevada Board of Agriculture December 6th 2024 - 9:00 a.m. Meeting</p> <p>After recently hearing about the plan to "fence" the wild horses away from Washoe Lake, it sparks my continuing effort to save our wild horses and make a plea that this not be done.</p> <p>Having been born in Reno NV 67 years ago, the wild horses have always been a majestic part of our State and something to be proud of. I'm aware of continuing effort by self-interest groups, ie hunters, ranchers and mining interests, to delete them, and pushing hard to get it done by lying and not talking about the horrific abuse OUR wild horses go endure. So abusive that even people in other countries talk about it, maybe second to Australia that shoots them right out of the air. The head of Nevada State Lands is a multi-millionaire ex-Senator that's never once spoken up for the wild horses, for the same reason everyone under him doesn't either - money and self-interests. These same mindset people run the show, man most the government jobs (buddy system) and think that they're the only ones that "have been on the land" so should control it, completely running meetings that no one knows about, during the day when people work, and even some of the agendas have even changed in wording as too "hide" the actual agenda item, ie (for one) "killing contests". The fact is that THEY BELONG TO ALL OF US and ALL OF OUR OPINIONS SHOULD MATTER, INSTEAD OF BEING</p>

Comment

MOSTLY IGNORED.

Wild horses have been and ARE used to ATTRACT Tourism in Nevada and thousands of photographer/videographers take pictures of them - make calendars, sell pictures enter contests, post videos, art shows, write books, on billboards (all the way to New York City), magazines, movies, painted on murals ALL OVER NEVADA. Wild horse and burro groups conduct tour, hold classes and events, provide information. Statues and sculptures. TOURIST BUREAUS AND AGENCIES promote, honor and celebrate our wild horses. This IS Enjoyment had by Nevadans and others, of a Fabulous Majestic sentient ANIMAL. And Washoe Valley is one of the primary places go to see them - or get to see them while driving through.

People literally come from all over the United States, and even the World, to see our wild horses. Visitors ask where they can see them and people drive out to Washoe Lake to see them. We learn about their families and how they live and it's such wonderful example for our children. That is until people learn how they're treated. Being chased with helicopters, breaking legs, breaking backs, mares having just given birth and babies being CHASED with a terroristic helicopters. A total contrast to what our children should be seeing, it's so horrible. 3rd World Country behavior. Fencing the horses out of Washoe Lake is another attempt to delete them. As the matter of fact, I rarely see them IN the lake and when I do, they're really enjoying it and gives all of us with big hearts a sense of joy. You have to know that A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE go to that lake TO SEE THE HORSES AND NOTHING ELSE. I've met people there from other states and even other countries. As the matter of fact, the Parks Department could do a better job of allowing the horses in and out of the park instead of running alongside the road looking for a space to get in. Why can't we work with them instead of abusing them? The power of all the people from the Top down to the Bottom with sincere intent, planning, implementing, getting their people that think like them to support them, it feels almost futile to continue to try to save them.

In addition, Real Hunters go out where there are No People. It's very disconcerting passing men with rifles on the trails out there, next to a major highway and within a State Park - basically surrounded by homes? I'm baffled as to why there's even "hunting" out there still.

I recognize my Gift of a Life and everyone else's and as I get closer to that end, I'm glad I'm one of the people that tried to save them. It seems like we should be progressing in a loving way as human beings, but some can't see the Big Picture. I hope you do. Please don't let them fence the wild horses out of Washoe Lake and seek win/win solutions instead of catering to selfish self-interest groups.

Taunee Jensen  
tauneejensen@hotmail.com

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**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 10:24:29 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/4/2024 10:24:23 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Laura Fuson
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Carson City
State	Nevada
Zip code	
agenda_number	11
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	Neutral
Wish to Speak	Yes
	<p>Nevada Board of Agriculture Dec 6, 2024 9 am meeting</p> <p>PUBLIC COMMENT</p> <p>I would like to make public comment regarding the wild horses of NV specifically of the Reno Carson area. Seems these horses are always in the spotlight. I recognize several groups either happy or very upset by their presence.</p> <p>I see a possible solution AS WASHOE STATE PARK. State Parks are built "for the people" to RECREATE!!</p> <p>Build this fence blocking horses from sprawling residential areas and high traffic roads—</p> <p>AND build WILD LIFE BRIDGES so the animals—ALL animals --can access Washoe Lake lands.</p> <p>Allow wild horses/animals to migrate to and from Washoe from the Virginia Highlands</p> <p>comfortably, safely and easily via a wild life bridge. This</p>

Comment

also allows the public a special place to view wild horses in their natural environment, witnessing nature and the bounty of the snowcapped Sierras.

Wild horses are a natural resource of NV, just like mining, cattle ranching and hunting. I know you all don't see it that way - but consider it for a moment. Turn the tide on the horse problem and make it a solution!

This nationally recognized State Park already has the basic infrastructure--and can readily Be improved to capitalize as a natural wild horse park!!!!

Senator Julie Pazina, Chair of Committee on Natural Resources wrote to Governor Lombardo Sept 6, 2024, requesting he consider funding for just such a wildlife bridge in his Executive Budget.

I am a retired, willing and physically able person, ready to donate my time and energy to volunteer and support such a plan. I KNOW there are many others that feel the same way.

Please allow wild horses to share in the bounty of NV just like the mining, cattle and game hunters.

Dedicate a natural resource---Washoe State Park- already in place to solve this problem.

Wild Horses are a NV tourism attraction, as attested by the multitude of wild horse statues and murals throughout Nevada. Imagine a dedicated area right off a major highway -on the way to our Capitol to view these equine beauties!!!! Do not block the wild horses off Washoe Lake by fencing them out and pushing the problem up the hill and into the next community.

Most Sincerely,  
Laura Fuson  
NV

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/4/2024 10:24:23 AM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 12:33:30 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/4/2024 12:33:20 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Jessica Seltzer
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I've grown up in Reno, NV and I absolutely love seeing the wild horses, whether they're located in Hidden Valley, Washoe Valley, or just out in the open. These horses have been around long before any buildings, houses, or other developments have been built. Since then I've seen attempts to keep pushing the wild horses further and further away, this is their home as much as it is ours. I do agree that the public needs to realize that these are Wild horses and they shouldn't be fed etc. However I do believe they shouldn't be put in a more risky situation, let them be. Pushing them further back limits their source of water year round, which would be like cutting off water source to humans. Please, Please, Please don't fence them out!!!!

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/4/2024 12:33:20 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 7:02:38 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/4/2024 7:02:22 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Lisa Horn
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Sonoma
State	CA
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>Good Day to you, I write at this time to oppose the proposed fence out if the Virginia Range horses in the Washoe Lake Area. The lake is the only year round water for this herd. For some of the herd this is all they know, this is their home. I understand the sad issue of horses being hit by cars as they try to cross the road, however the road is clearly marked that wildlife crosses, in particular wildhorses. Just recently in Jackson hole a beloved Grizzly was struck by a car, yet they are not fencing off that state park or removing grizzlies. Im sure she was not the first either. Wildlife and wildhorses make up the land in Nevada and give me reason to visit and patronize the park each season. I know I am not alone in this.</p> <p>The money spent on fencing may be better directed to add additional markings on the road, a wildlife crossing flashing alert.</p> <p>There are other ways to manage wildlife. For the good of all.</p> <p>In Point Reyes, CA the National Park Service is removing Elk fencing, this week, after realizing the benefits to the health of the land they provide, and yes they too can be struck by a car on dense foggy days!</p> <p>I appreciate your consideration to changing yhe proposed fence into something more ciable for all.</p> <p>Lisa Horn</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 12:01:59 AM

---

Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 12:01:54 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Pamela Bole
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	7
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I want to state for the record that I oppose the NDA's plan to fence in Washoe Lake and thereby fencing out the Wild Horses from their water and a food source. This action is both cruel and inhumane, and a total waste of money! Washoe Lake has been a water source for the Wild Horses for many years. PLEASE do not approve this plan and fence out the Wild Horses which would significantly limit their access to water. And for the record, MANY people come to this park JUST to be able to see and photograph the Wild Horses!!! This plan would be a terrible mistake in so many ways, and cruel and inhumane. Please leave the park as it is for all to enjoy, with the Wild Horses having access to an abundant water source! Sadly, I am not surprised to see the BLM involved and mentioned in this project, they are responsible for many injustices to the Wild Horses. PLEASE do not approve this fencing action.</p> <p>Sincerely Pamela Bole</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 12:01:54 AM.



**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 7:27:44 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 7:27:38 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Joel E Dauffenbach
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	Nv
Zip code	
agenda_number	1
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I am aware of a plan to fence our wild Horses from the Washoe lake, this would cause great stress on them. Please consider water chances for them to have access to much needed water .

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 7:27:38 AM.

The Nevada Department of Agriculture has misused allocated congressional earmark funds intended to be used to support local management programs and expand public safety efforts with fencing and diversionary feeding of the Virginia Range horses.

Instead, the funds are being used to advance measures that will increase risk to the public and undermine community management programs by rejecting the City of Reno's requests for funding to complete a high priority fencing project and blocking diversionary feeding programs. These programs are effective and keep horses out of developed areas. The NDA is creating a crisis that endangers the public and the horses.

NDA Director, JJ Goicoechea, is on record advocating for the removal of wild horses and sending them to slaughter despite polls showing over 75% of Nevadans support wild horse protection and oppose slaughter.

The NDA policies have shifted away from cooperation and collaboration with community partners toward policies that will very likely result in the mass roundup of these cherished horses from the range and sent to slaughter.

I respectfully request:

- Immediately halting all action to construct a 23-mile fencing in the Washoe Lake area that does not address public safety but will keep wild horses off their only reliable year-round water sources.
- Authorize diversionary feeding projects that have proven effective in keeping wild horses out of developed areas.
- Use earmark funds to support the completion of the City of Reno's high priority fencing project as well as other previously identified areas such as the Fernley canal, Centennial Park to Duck Hill Road in North Carson City and repair of the Washoe State Park's fencing, which to date has been done by local advocacy groups.
- Direct the NDA to collaborate with its community partners.
- Demand transparency in the planning and process of earmark fund spending.

The wild horse appears on the Nevada State coin and on a tapestry displayed in the Legislative Building. These horses are a symbol of our great state and

through collaborative management with local community organizations the horses can be managed with public safety and the well-being of the horses as a priority.

Respectfully submitted

Rae Hanna

[REDACTED]

Dayton, NV

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Martha Wright](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Smith](#)  
**Subject:** WE WANT TRANSPARENCY & COOPERATION FOR WILD HORSES  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 10:40:33 AM

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WARNING - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

As a wild horse advocate, I want the NDA to cooperate with City of Reno, American Wild Horse Conservation, Wild Horse Connection, and all the other wild horse advocacy groups in their efforts to bring solutions beneficial to both horses and humans on the Virginia Range in Nevada.

Please do not fence our cherished horses out of the Washoe Lake State Park! People come from all over the world to see them. Local people enjoy them daily.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marty Wright

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 10:52:45 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 10:52:41 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Dorothy Nylen
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Dayton
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Favor
Wish to Speak	Yes
Comment	<p>NDA has important agreements with non-profit, wild horses advocacy groups to help manage horses on the Virginia Range. These groups in turn work with a variety of other local advocacy groups such as mine, and have been super successful in these endeavors. Unfortunately NDA has been rejecting requests for projects that support these outcomes all around the Virginia Range.</p> <p>In my area the Nevada Department of Transportation has really come through with fencing on US 50. But NDOT was not able to legally fence in all places. Because of more limiting controls put in place by NDA under JJ Goicoechea, we cannot diversionary feed for public safety in our area. Because of this horses are being hit, vehicles totaled. What the fencing project that NDA is focusing on in Washoe Valley and Washoe Lake without input from the advocacy groups will result in more horses being pushed into the Carson City, Mound House and Dayton areas. Fencing horses out of a reliable water source without planning and including community partners - nonprofits, cities and counties etc, is unacceptable.</p> <p>Free roaming horses are treasured and just being able to see them is considered a basic "Freedom" to people of all political persuasions. I know this not just because of polls, but by the very makeup of our organizations.</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 11:07:28 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 11:07:21 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Marty Wright
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Dayton
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	Yes
Comment	Please cooperate with the City of Reno, Wild Horse Connection, American Wild Horse Conservation, and other wild horse advocacy groups in order to protect the public and our Virginia Range Wild Horses. We need transparency and cooperation from the NDA! I do not support fencing our wild horses out of the Washoe Lake State Park area. People come from all over to see them! Local people enjoy them daily!

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 11:07:21 AM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 11:21:18 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 11:21:13 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Erin Leveaux
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>To the Nevada State Board of Agriculture, I am writing in opposition to the removal of the nearly 400 wild horses that currently depend on Washoe Lake as their year round water source. Constructing a fence that does not allow them access to water is cruel and inhumane. I understand for the safety of the animals and for the public that there cannot be free access to crossing roadways, but this fencing project and others could be beneficial for all if there were designated safety crossings for the horses to pass through in order to have access to water, as well as the surrounding hills.</p> <p>In the eyes of the public, it seems counterproductive to work against local organizations that have boots on the ground here locally and are collecting data which shows the effective methods currently being used, such as fertility management and diversionary feeding, to assist in managing the population, as well as keeping the horses away from highly populated areas.</p> <p>As a long time Washoe County resident, I have peace and solace getting to experience these beautiful animals in the 40 years I have lived here and now sharing them with my two young children. I cannot support the inhumane methods that have been used in the past and continue to be used currently to round these animals up, contain them in pens, and/or send them to slaughter. We can do better and find a way to live harmoniously with these animals who bring such a unique beauty to our area.</p>

Please consider that a majority of local people polled on this matter are in support of wild horse protection. I encourage you to really look at the data that is being presented to you by the organizations working hard here, as well as look at the public polling data that supports the work of these organizations.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 11:21:13 AM.



**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 11:55:05 AM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 11:54:59 AM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Linda Nemeth
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	ROUND LK BCH
State	IL
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	Absolutely no fence Totally ridiculous Is that all the state of Nevada wants to do is destroy the land and kill all the wildlife? All for your livestock grazing and mining, gas Total destruction is all that Nevada knows to do \$\$\$\$ right! Do you not care about the future of what your grandchildren will have to face in a world with climate crisis?

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 11:54:59 AM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 12:02:06 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 12:01:57 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Dorothy Nylen
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Dayton
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Favor
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>NDA has important agreements with non-profit, wild horses advocacy groups to help manage horses on the Virginia Range. These groups in turn work with a variety of other local advocacy groups and have been super successful in these endeavors. Unfortunately NDA has been rejecting requests for projects that support these outcomes all around the Virginia Range.</p> <p>In my area the Nevada Department of Transportation has really come through with fencing on US 50. But NDOT was not able to fence in all places. Because of more limiting controls put in place by NDA under JJ Goicoechea, there is now no suitable location to diversionary feed for public safety in our area. Because of this horses are being hit, vehicles totaled. In addition, what the fencing project that NDA is focusing on in Washoe Valley and Washoe Lake without input from the advocacy groups or the public will result in more horses being pushed into the Carson City, Mound House and Dayton areas. Fencing horses out of a reliable water source without planning and including community partners - nonprofits, cities and counties etc, is unacceptable.</p> <p>Free roaming horses are treasured and just being able to see them is considered a basic "Freedom" to people of all political persuasions. I know this not just because of polls, but by the very makeup of the organizations I come in contact with.</p>

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 12:13:07 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 12:12:59 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Jessica Rose
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>Why won't the NDA cooperate with Wild Horse Connection to keep the horses and public safe? What we are asking - Immediately halting all action to construct a 23-mile fencing in the Washoe Lake area that will not address public safety issues but will fence 400 wild horses off their only reliable year-round water sources, or most likely, force their removal. Authorizing diversionary feeding projects in the South Reno area that have proven effective in keeping wild horses on the range and out of developed areas. Using earmark funds to support the completion of the City of Reno's high-priority fencing project which is necessary to reduce horse-vehicle collisions in developed areas, as well as other previously identified high priority areas such as the Fernley canal, Centennial Park to Duck Hill Road in North Carson City, and repair of the Washoe State Park's fencing which to date has been done by local advocacy groups. Directing the NDA to collaborate with its community partners to continue the successful and humane management of the Virginia Range horses. Demand transparency in the planning and process of the earmark fund spending.</p> <p>These demands are very reasonable and aim to keep everyone and every horse SAFE!!</p>

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 12:34:35 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 12:34:30 PM.

### Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Karen Roemmich
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I'M IN OPPOSITION TO THE TREATMENT OF WILD HORSES BY THE NDA IN NEVADA.</p> <p>Regarding the NDA's covert actions involving wild horses of Nevada:</p> <p>1.NDA has failed to use congressional earmark funds, intended to help with management of Virginia Range horses, for increasing public safety efforts through badly needed fencing in south Reno area and diversionary feeding programs, which has previously been shown to be successful through winter months.</p> <p>2.These NDA anti-horse policies are directly in opposition to the will of Nevadans, 86% of whom support wild horse protection and oppose slaughter.</p> <p>The will of Nevadans and longstanding affection for the preservation of our treasured wild horses is being blatantly opposed by the NDA . The agency's lack of transparency and total lack of cooperation with The City of Reno, Virginia Range wild horse partners , American Wild Horse Conservation for fertility control and Wild Horse Connection for range management, CALLS FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE NDA'S GOVERNANCE OVER OUR TREASURED WILD HORSES.</p> <p>3. The current direction of the NDA'S profound mismanagement, lack of transparency, failure to cooperate with partners and their profound anti-horse position, will</p>

likely result in the mass roundup of our cherished horses from the range, if their direction is not brought to an abrupt halt.

Nevadans, including myself STRONGLY OPPOSE the actions, lack of transparency and position of the NDA, in the matters of wild horses including the current fencing and diversionary feeding issues.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 12:34:30 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 12:51:15 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 12:51:11 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Kristi Johnson
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>Fencing the wild horses out of Washoe Lake will have an unpromising outcome. The horses rely on a constant source of water and removing them without offering the same environment is inhumane.</p> <p>The beauty of Washoe Lake is the wild horses. I have spent the last year out there and come across people every time that say they traveled to Washoe to see the wild horses. I personally moved 1,600 miles a year ago to be closer to the horses. I imagine that tourism revenue would drop significantly if Washoe Lake doesn't have the horses to see.</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 12:51:11 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 12:58:16 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 12:58:10 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Michelle Schrameyer
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>To the Nevada State Board of Agriculture, I am writing in opposition to the removal of the nearly 400 wild horses that currently depend on Washoe Lake as their year round water source. Constructing a fence that does not allow them access to water is cruel and inhumane.</p> <p>They are part of our beautiful state.</p> <p>As a long time Washoe County resident, I have peace and solace getting to experience these beautiful animals in the 45 years. I have lived here and now sharing them with my youngest child and out of town guests.</p> <p>I cannot support the inhumane methods that have been used in the past and continue to be used currently to round these animals up, contain them in pens, and/or send them to slaughter. We can do better and find a way to live harmoniously with these animals who bring such a unique beauty to our area.</p> <p>Please consider that a majority of local people polled on this matter are in support of wild horse protection. I encourage you to really look at the data that is being presented to you by the organizations working hard here, as well as look at the public polling data that supports the work of these organizations.</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 12:58:10 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 1:02:05 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 1:02:01 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Tina Brodrick
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	7
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	Yes
Comment	<p>Two consequences of a decision to fence horses out of Washoe Lake</p> <p>Threat of wildfire in the Washoe Lake area that will potentially spread to residential homes.</p> <p>The animals help to create a defensible space by their foraging in and around Washoe Lake. A wildfire break helps to reduce the threat of devastating wildfire. Just this summer, the Davis fire was threatening not only Washoe, but the Virginia City Highlands. Thanks to the horses grazing the hillsides, the fire did not continue east. They are free lawn mowers! No need to import goats.</p> <p>Missing a tourism opportunity and revenue stream: 2024 - 136 people from the state of CA, WA, FL, TX, TN, NY, ME, PA, IL, MO, WY, AZ and Israel (I might add that there are wild horses in Montana and Wyoming, however, these people chose to come to Reno NV because the horses are accessible. 2023 - 127 people from all above states including, MN, WI, OH, and Montreal Canada, Vancouver BC. 2022 - 185 people from all the above including the country of Sweden.</p> <p>These people traveled and spent money on lodging, food and other entertainment. Prior to covid, people came from Greenland, Iceland,</p>



Germany, all across Europe, Brazil, Chili, Mexico, and so on.

They did not come for gambling, but simply to see wild horses.

By eliminating water sources and forage for wild horses, the state is shooting themselves in the foot and creating potentially disastrous consequences.

Work with the non-profit advocacy groups to create opportunities that will benefit the safety of the public and an enhanced revenue stream for the state.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 1:02:01 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 1:38:15 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 1:38:11 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Amelia Chapman
Organization	<div></div>
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Santa Rosa
State	CA
Zip code	<div></div>
agenda_number	1
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I oppose the proposed fence plan around Washoe Lake State Park as it will cut off the only year-round water source for the wild horses. Please consider other safety measures. Thank you.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 1:38:11 PM.

**From:** [Kelly Hyatt](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda item 2A December 6 2025 OPPOSED  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 1:40:44 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**WARNING** - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

December 5, 2024

To: Nevada Board of Agriculture, Nevada Governor Lombardo, Senator Katheryn Cortez Masto, Senator Jacky Rosen

RE: Agenda Item 2A -- Opposed -- NDA Fencing project in Washoe Valley, Washoe Lake

I am writing today to express my opposition to the Nevada Department of Agriculture's current Fencing project at Washoe Lake.

This fencing project is in direct conflict with the City of Reno's Public Safety Fencing Project which is actually designed to Protect the Public!!!! By keeping the wild horses from getting on to the roads and highways in the South Reno areas of Toll Road, Geiger grade and Veterans parkway, as far north as Steamboat Parkway, This is the area of the utmost danger to the public and the horses due to no fence At all currently in the area of Toll Road and Geiger Grade, the horses can freely walk out of the hills and down the road in to the neighborhoods and very busy streets.

**The NDA has been given \$1 MILLION dollars in Federal allocated funds**, —thanks to Senators Cortez-Masto and Rosen. These funds are earmarked for the Virginia Range – for projects such as diversionary feeding – and Fencing, --- and hiring a “range Manager” to act as a liaison with the “horse advocates” -- **it is my contention that this money has been mishandled and misused and I demand that my tax dollars be used properly and used where it is most urgently needed.** I am appalled that the NDA would take our (my) tax dollars and use it for a pet project that is not necessary at this time – when there is real danger to the public in the South Reno Triangle.

The City of Reno (who has allocated grant money in the hundreds of thousands) to build the Public Safety fence, and has recently completed opening 3000 feet of creek front to provide water access to the wildlife in the Hidden Valley /Alexander Lake Road area. This fence is planned to come down to Geiger Grade and cross over to Toll Road and back to south Virginia (old 395)

**The NDA should be working with the City of Reno to make sure that this Public Safety fence is completed before they move forward with any, or in this case anymore fencing of the Washoe lake area.**

I respectfully request that the Governor and the Board of Directors, Senators Cortez, and Rosen to direct the NDA to immediately stop the project they are working on and work FIRST with the City of Reno and close the “danger zone” now. NDA fence is making the situation infinitely more dangerous with their current fence and making the wild horse advocates remove and relocate horses that have come down into the south reno streets looking for food. **Removing and Relocation is a band aid because with no fence more horses will just come down** – (also because the NDA refused to approve diversionary feeding in South Reno—even at a station the previous Range Manager picked

out and approved last season—**if there is no fence** and no diversionary feeding **the horses will not stay in the hills.**

Washoe lake fencing is not urgently needed currently, but the Reno Fence is, please protect the public and the horses and help the City of Reno and the Wild Horse Advocates Public Safety fence in South Reno NOW.

Kelly Hyatt— Toll Road Resident.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 1:42:21 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 1:42:16 PM.

### Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	kelly hyatt
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	reno
State	Nevada
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	Yes
	<p>December 5, 2024 To: Nevada Board of Agriculture, Nevada Governor Lombardo, Senator Katheryn Cortez Masto, Senator Jacky Rosen RE: Agenda Item 2A -- Opposed -- NDA Fencing project in Washoe Valley, Washoe Lake I am writing today to express my opposition to the Nevada Department of Agriculture's current Fencing project at Washoe Lake. This fencing project is in direct conflict with the City of Reno's Public Safety Fencing Project which is actually designed to Protect the Public!!!! By keeping the wild horses from getting on to the roads and highways in the South Reno areas of toll Road, Geiger grade and Veterans parkway, as far north as Steamboat Parkway, This is the area of the utmost danger to the public and the horses due to no fence At all currently in the area of Toll Road and Geiger Grade, the horses can freely walk out of the hills and down the road in to the neighborhoods and very busy streets. The NDA has been given \$1 MILLION dollars in Federal allocated funds, -thanks to Senators Cortez-Masto and Rosen. These funds are earmarked for the Virginia Range - for projects such as diversionary feeding - and Fencing, --- and hiring a "range Manager" to act as a liaison with the "horse advocates" -- it is my contention that this money has been mishandled and misused and I demand that my tax dollars be used properly and used where it is most urgently needed. I am appalled that the NDA would take our (my) tax dollars</p>

Comment

and use it for a pet project that is not necessary at this time - when there is real danger to the public in the South Reno Triangle.

The City of Reno (who has allocated grant money in the hundreds of thousands) to build the Public Safety fence, and has recently completed opening 3000 feet of creek front to provide water access to the wildlife in the Hidden Valley /Alexander Lake Road area. This fence is planned to come down to Geiger Grade and cross over to Toll Road and back to south Virginia (old 395)

The NDA should be working with the City of Reno to make sure that this Public Safety fence is completed before they move forward with any, or in this case anymore fencing of the Washoe lake area.

I respectfully request that the Governor and the Board of Directors, Senators Cortez, and Rosen to direct the NDA to immediately stop the project they are working on and work FIRST with the City of Reno and close the "danger zone" now. NDA fence is making the situation infinitely more dangerous with their current fence and making the wild horse advocates remove and relocate horses that have come down into the south reno streets looking for food. Removing and Relocation is a band aid because with no fence more horses will just come down - (also because the NDA refused to approve diversionary feeding in South Reno-even at a station the previous Range Manager picked out and approved last season-if there is no fence and no diversionary feeding the horses will not stay in the hills.

Washoe lake fencing is not urgently needed currently, but the Reno Fence is, please protect the public and the horses and help the City of Reno and the Wild Horse Advocates Public Safety fence in South Reno NOW.

Kelly Hyatt- Toll Road Resident.



Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 1:42:16 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 1:49:23 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 1:49:20 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	jim eaglesmith
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	reno
State	nevada
Zip code	
agenda_number	1
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	Neutral
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	: )

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 1:49:20 PM.

**From:** [Sonya Richins](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Virginia Range Horses  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:00:02 PM

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**WARNING** - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Sonya Richins  
Founder, CEO Wild Heart Sanctuary

December 5, 2024

Governor Lombardo,

As you may have heard, the Nevada Department of Agriculture has yet to use allocated congressional earmark funds intended to address the management of the Virginia Range horses. The funds are designed to be used to enhance public safety support local management programs and to expand public safety efforts with fencing and diversionary feeding.

The funds have instead been used to advance measures that will harm Virginia Range horses, increase risk to the public and undermine community management programs. In fact, the NDA is blocking proven measures to protect horses and the public by:

Rejecting requests by the City of Reno for funding to complete a high-priority fencing project to keep horses out of neighborhoods and roadways and reduce horse/vehicle collisions in the South Reno area.

Blocking diversionary feeding programs in the same area, despite proof that the programs effectively keep horses in the hills and out of developed areas.

In failing to support these measures, the NDA is creating a crisis that endangers the public and the horses. Their current plan could actually push more horses into priority public safety zones, creating yet more crises.

Under Goicoechea's leadership, NDA policies have shifted away from cooperation and collaboration with community partners (American Wild Horse Conservation for fertility control and Wild Horse Connection for range management), toward policies that will very likely result in the mass roundup of these cherished horses from the range. There is no transparency on the plan for the horses within the fence out zone, but private conversations look to be removals with questions about placement. We know from history that horses are at risk of being sold to slaughter.

We are asking our allies to please contact their regional representatives and ask them to contact the Governor to address the NDA's anti-horse, anti-public policies by:

Immediately halting all action to construct a 23-mile fencing in the Washoe Lake area that will not address public safety issues but will fence 400 wild horses off their only reliable year-round water sources, or most likely, force their removal.

Authorizing diversionary feeding projects in the South Reno area that have proven effective in keeping wild horses on the range and out of developed areas.

Using earmark funds to support the completion of the City of Reno's high-priority fencing project which is necessary to reduce horse-vehicle collisions in developed areas, as well as other previously identified high priority areas such as the Fernley canal, Centennial Park to Duck Hill Road in North Carson City, and repair of the Washoe State Park's fencing which to date has been



done by local advocacy groups.

Directing the NDA to collaborate with its community partners to continue the successful and humane management of the Virginia Range horses.

Demand transparency in the planning and process of the earmark fund spending.

Thanks so much for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sonya Richins

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:03:49 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 2:03:36 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Giselle Reyna
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	It would be extremely cruel for the NDA to put a fence around Washoe Lake to keep out horses from a huge water source. The money for fencing should be done in areas like Damonte Ranch. Why aren't they worried about the huge public safety risk happening in that area? With the new housing developments happening in Damonte Ranch, the area has become so risky for people driving 60mph on Veterans and the horses. The NDA should be more transparent about what projects they're doing because all of this has been kept pretty hush. Documents should be released about the Washoe Lake fencing and how it came into fruition. Has anymore else also thought about the impact it will have on other species utilizing the lake? What long term impact will this have on that environment? I strongly oppose the 23 mile fencing. Let's allocate the money towards fertility control and feeding programs to get them out of the roads. That helps immensely.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 2:03:36 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:07:11 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 2:07:07 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Mary Ann Oelsner
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	8
agenda_letter	C
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>It is unconscionable that the Board of Agriculture would even consider fencing off the primary water source (Washoe Lake) for the Wild Horses. Could it possibly be your intention to exterminate these horses by subjecting them to a lingering cruel, painful death from thirst and dehydration? As members of the Agricultural Community, you are expected to give value to animals lives. These iconic horses have been providing wildfire protection by consuming the grasses all along our eastern foothills. These horses also give back to the land, unlike cattle. Horses have a digestive system like you and me. Seeds from native grasses pass through their system with feces that readily disintegrates with the rain. The humus of their feces provides a medium for seeds to sprout and grow. The feces of cattle are dry and hard, oftentimes can be picked up and thrown like a frizzbe!</p> <p>As taxpayers we expect some appreciation of the wild horses that compliment the wild animal community.</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 2:07:07 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:08:08 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 2:08:06 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Emily Cady
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	RENO
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I am submitting public comment in opposition to the Washoe Valley fencing project. I have the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Increased wildfire danger on public &amp; private lands due to decreased wildlife grazing on flash fuels. The Davis fire highlighted public safety concerns, especially in this area that goes up in flames quickly.</li><li>-Animal/wildlife welfare: This barbed wire fence cuts off water access to Virginia Range wild horses, as well as separates other wildlife (deer, coyotes, bears, mountain lions) from access to food &amp; water resources. This fence also endangers animals who maybe separated from each other or be injured by this barbed wire fence.</li><li>-I am concerned about the demanding maintenance and upkeep of this fence. Who will be monitoring, where will the funds come from?</li><li>-I am concerned about other environmental impacts of this fence and urge the NDA to assess all consequences on the environment before completing the fence.</li><li>-I am urging the NDA to please be transparent regarding tax-funded projects that impact our local community, residents (like me!) and our environment.</li></ul> <p>Thank you for taking concerns into consideration. - Emily Cady, Virginia Foothills resident</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 2:08:06 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:08:43 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 2:08:37 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Karen Martz
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I urge our leaders to ask NDA to work in cooperation with various community organizations in taking measures to protect our wild horses and not threaten their range and lives with unnecessary actions. They deserve to live their lives freely.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 2:08:37 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:14:27 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 2:14:23 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	suzanne parodi
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Lake Tahoe
State	California
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	Yes
Comment	I am opposed to this idea of putting a fence around Washoe Lake!! I know this will be detrimental for people and animals alike. I take my elderly mother out to Washoe lake and it is beautiful, being able to see a multitude of wild life , just out the car window is amazing and great therapy for her. I think this will cause more harm than the supposed good that you are seeking, and will leave a lasting impression on the wild Nevada landscape and persona that Nevada advertises.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 2:14:23 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:18:49 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 2:18:44 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Jon Cady
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	RENO
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>I am in opposition of the Washoe Valley fencing project. As a South Reno/Virginia Foothills resident for over 40 years, I am concerned about the negative impacts of this fence on our community, including both human and animal/environmental residents. I am no stranger to the wild horses in this area, and am in support of measures to keep the wildlife and public safe. However, this fence does not take animal welfare into account, and ultimately does not solve the public safety concerns. Furthermore, horse v. human incidents are higher in other areas (like my neighborhood) and I would like to see resources prioritized in Geiger, Toll, Damonte, Veterans Pkwy, Rio Wrangler, Steamboat area. With no/limited year-round access to water and food, where will these Washoe Valley horses go? How will they be relocated? The horses provide much-needed grazing of wildfire fuel which help in wildfire prevention. Additionally, who will take responsibility for maintenance &amp; supply of resources for upkeep of this 20+ mile barbed wire fence? I am urging you to please consider the negative impacts on our environment and local community before completing this fencing project. Thank you.</p>

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 2:18:44 PM.

**From:** [Leontine Nappe](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture - Nevada's Free-roaming Horses  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:20:18 PM

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**WARNING** - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Members of the Board of Agriculture:

The topic of the Department of Agriculture's management or lack of management of Nevada's free-roaming horses does not appear on the agenda; however, it is on the agenda of horse advocates. I wish to highlight my hope that the Department of Agriculture, as the responsible agency, will take the lead in reducing Nevada's free-roaming horse population inhabiting Nevada lands.

A few horses living at Washoe Lake State Park are appreciated. One hundred horses or more living year round is devastating. I hope it is not too late to save the Park's native plants that now, because of constant horse grazing, have limited opportunity to grow and reproduce. A healthy plant population is the survival foundation for grazing and seed-eating wildlife and for the carnivores that depend on those grazers to survive.

For many years there were no horses at Washoe Lake State Park, native grasses and flowers had time to grow and recover from historic grazing. The recent weather cycle has also been beneficial. Dry times will come again and Washoe Lake will be dry as it was in 2015. In the meantime, just stop at the wetlands overlook at the south end of the Park. Once foot high grasses around the overlook have been replaced by dirt. The horses graze day in and day out on grasses and shrubs that can only grow part of the year. We are losing the mitigated wetlands below the overlook and Scripps Wildlife Management Area at the north end. We have so few protected sites for our wetland dependent birds; we can't afford to lose these critical areas to horses.

At the park picnic grounds, stud piles and manure everywhere, When grass is gone elsewhere, only the park lawn will be available. Horses, of course, are also devastating Deadman's Creek. This is a lovely and rare riparian area with flowers that depend on wetlands. (Please require horse contractors clean up after the horses around the picnic areas.)

The Department of Agriculture's lack of management is resulting in car accidents



and in fencing costs by both private individuals and public agencies. The City of Reno recently spent \$600,000 on a temporary fence. Residents who once may have not needed a fence must now fence and use cattle guards to keep horses out. Desperate horses eventually break through any fence.

Development is occurring all around the base of the Virginia Range. Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center is successfully using up its land for new businesses. Reno is building up the mountain side. Most of the Virginia Range is private and subject to building. In Washoe Valley the new homes along the lake are fencing their acreage.

Unfortunately the use of PZP has not reduced the horse population. There were four cute foals last time I visited the Park; I note that a recent Facebook page celebrated the birth of a foal in November. Another mouth to feed.

**ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT THE DEVASTATION!**

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:25:41 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 2:25:37 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Tom Parodi
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	South lake tahoe
State	Ca
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I would have to avoid this proposal , my wife and I drive out to washoe lake with our mother, just to view the wildlife that habitates there. It's not often that you have the ability to see wild horses which have roamed Nevada for centuries, She gets great pleasure seeing them in their natural environment. It's a shame that you are even considering doing this to the lake and surrounding area, and it is my voice in opposition to this being an atrocity to the area.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 2:25:37 PM.

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:28:51 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 2:28:46 PM.

### Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Jen Stahl
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	NV
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
	<p>My name is Jen Stahl and I live in the south Reno area. As a lifetime horse lover, long time horse owner and a resident of Steamboat Valley, I am dismayed by what is being done - or not done - by the Nevada Department of Agriculture. What is being done? The NDA has chosen to use congressional funds earmarked to address management of the Virginia Range horses to begin fencing up on the range near the Pleasant Valley area and moving south for approximately 6 miles at last account, with a plan to extend this for 20+ miles to Carson City. In doing this, they have taken away a natural occurring water source that the horses on the range access - Washoe Lake - along with other water sources - like Wilbuck Creek - which is in the hills east of Eastlake Blvd and which the horses frequent, especially in the spring and summer. How many more water sources which have been available to the horses in the past are they going to fence them out of? The claim is that there is plenty of water on the range but the NDA has yet to say where these water sources are. The lake beds that exist in the hills east of the lake are currently dry, with the exception of a small amount of water left in one.</p> <p>And what is NOT being done by the NDA? The department is not using these funds, intended to be used to enhance public safety and support local management programs, to assist with the very high priority fencing project in the south Reno area. The NDA has rejected requests by the City of Reno for funding to complete this fencing project to keep the horses out of the neighborhoods and off the roadways.</p>

Comment

At the same time, the NDA is NOT approving any diversionary feed sites for the south Reno area, not a single one. This program has proven itself effective in keeping the horses off the streets as we go into the winter season and yet the department refuses to approve any sites. And what will be the effect of these refusals to act by the NDA? Certainly, there will be horse-vehicle accidents. If public safety truly was a concern and if the welfare of the horses was also a concern of the NDA's, they would assist the City of Reno with funding the south Reno fencing project. And in the meantime, they would approve diversionary feeding. What a concept - diversionary feed to keep the horses off the streets at this time and assist the City of Reno in completing the much-needed fencing project in south Reno which once completed, would keep the horses out of the city and on the range.

Instead, the NDA is using that funding to place a fence up on the range which takes away water sources from horses in that area and also prevents horses currently at the lake from returning to the range. What is their plan for these horses? When are they going to tell the local residents, the visitors and tourists, the many people who frequent the lake to enjoy the horses what they plan to do?

It is time for the Nevada Department of Agriculture to be transparent with the community about their plans and their intentions. It is time for the NDA to begin assisting the efforts to manage the horses instead of being a detriment to these efforts. The City of Reno came together with the various stakeholders in the community to take steps to address public safety and manage the horses. It is time for the NDA to do the same.

Email "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" originally sent to [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) from [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov) on 12/5/2024 2:28:46 PM.

**From:** [lindsay.mann@ntlworld.com](mailto:lindsay.mann@ntlworld.com)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Smith](#)  
**Subject:** Virginia Range horses and misappropriation of allocated funding  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 2:39:52 PM

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**WARNING** - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write with my comments regarding the Virginia Range horses and their management on the range.

I support the wild horses on the range and want them to remain free and to have access to water at Washoe Lake and other water sources.

I am concerned that funds allocated to help with the wild horses, for their management, protection and care, have been misappropriated.

The allocated funds are to be used to enhance public safety, also to support local management programs, and to expand public safety efforts with fencing and diversionary feeding.

The funds have instead been used to advance measures that will harm Virginia Range horses, increase risk to the public and undermine community management programs. Aggressively, the NDA is blocking proven measures to protect horses and the public by:

- 1) Rejecting requests by the City of Reno for funding to complete a high-priority fencing project to keep horses out of neighborhoods and roadways and reduce horse/vehicle collisions in the South Reno area.
- 2) Blocking diversionary feeding programs in the area, despite proof that the programs are effective in keeping horses in the hills and out of developed areas.

In failing to support these measures, the NDA is creating a crisis that endangers the public and the horses. Their current plan could actually

push more horses into priority public safety zones, creating yet more crises. To me this appears unconscionable. It is not working with the community and is showing itself as basically “anti horse”.

I am concerned that NDA policies have shifted away from cooperation and collaboration with community partners (for fertility control and for range management), toward policies that will very likely result in the mass roundup of these cherished horses from the range. There is no transparency on the plan for the horses within the fence out zone.

I would ask for:

a) Immediately halting the construction of the 23-mile fencing in the Washoe Lake area - that will not address public safety issues, but will fence 400 wild horses off their only reliable year-round water sources, or most likely, force their removal.

b) Authorizing diversionary feeding projects in the South Reno area that have proven effective.

c) Using earmark funds to support the completion of the City of Reno’s high-priority fencing project - necessary to reduce horse-vehicle collisions in developed areas, as well as other previously identified high priority areas such as the Fernley canal, and repair of the Washoe State Park's fencing which to date has been done by local advocacy groups.

d) Directing the NDA to collaborate with its community partners (AWHC/WHC) to continue the successful and humane management of the Virginia Range horses.

E) transparency in the planning and process of the earmark fund spending.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Lindsay Mann

**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 3:08:50 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 3:08:46 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Jannett Heckert
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Park City
State	UT
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	<p>Dear Nevada Department of Agriculture;</p> <p>Wild Mustangs have been in the crosshairs in the twelve western states, more recently due to the lack of governments - local, state and federal willing to work with wild horse advocates in each region to advance humane, commonsense, and cost-effective policies that prevent this crisis from worsening.</p> <p>I feel that the proposed fence line that will block water from these bands of wild mustangs is inhumane. Laws are made to prevent cruelty to animals domestic and wild. The BLM does make it illegal to hunt or kill mustangs but would allow them to die a slow death without water. It just happened in the state of Utah. The backlash the BLM received was huge.If you haven't notice the wild horse advocates are winning lawsuits.</p> <p>I would like to see all these government entities include the wild horse organizations in this issue, coming together with state level departments, involving the Division of Wildlife and Nevada Department of Agriculture in finding money to build overpasses on the interstate, putting up fencing along the interstate to funnel the animals safely over the roads, and providing a safe areas where there is water and natural range land away from the neighborhoods. The BLM strategy spends millions of dollar rounding up these</p>

herds when that same money could be used on resources to resolve issues. It takes a village to work together.

You may feel that there are too many wild horses, but the BLM and The Path Forward" isn't the solution either. Ranchers want all the land for cattle that do more damage than the horses to range land and the people in general love their presence, seeing the wild mustangs on the landscape. Please work to make a better plan for the next generation to be proud of the state of Nevada.

Wild horses are cherished around the world. Remember, there were once buffalo and now they are protected from extermination in parks like Yellowstone and Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Don't fall into this trap! Create a refuge like those found in California, Montana, Idaho and Colorado to preserve the herds. Protect your precious resources. People will support the efforts if you can come together!

Sincerely,  
Jannett Heckert  
Park City, Utah

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**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 3:11:57 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 3:11:54 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Kate Munson
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Sparks
State	Nv
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	The horses have been thriving here for hundreds of years of year and it would be a crime to fence Them out of their main water source. Also they bring in a lot of people that just want to see them! They should be protected and revered at all cost!

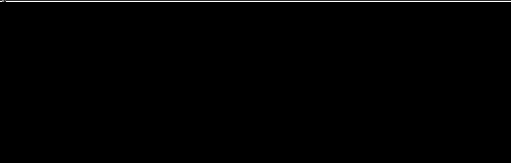

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**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 3:23:19 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 3:23:15 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Kay fish
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Silver Springs
State	Nv
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I really oppose to what you are doing to our horses. You're happy to see them all go to slaughter. I hope you'll reconsider your decisions. Kay Fish



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**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 3:40:49 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 3:40:46 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Mary Butiste-Jones
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	South Bend
State	IN
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	I'm writing in opposition to the fencing of wild horses away from Washoe Lake, their closest and main water source. This proposed fencing would precipitate an animal crisis, which is cruel and inhumane. Not good stewardship. Torturous some would say. Our wild horses are part of our western heritage. Need to be preserved and protected.

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**From:** [boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov](mailto:boapubliccomment@agri.nv.gov)  
**To:** [Board of Agriculture Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Board of Agriculture Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 4:22:30 PM

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Data from form "Board of Agriculture Public Comment" was received on 12/5/2024 4:22:26 PM.

Public Comment Form

Field	Value
Name	Judy Babione
Organization	
Email Address	
Physical_address	
City	Reno
State	Nevada
Zip code	
agenda_number	2
agenda_letter	A
Favor, Opposition, Neutral	In Opposition
Wish to Speak	No
Comment	The fencing impact will have a serious impact on the horses and other wildlife in areas. Animals horses and. Other types must have water you want to stop access which is totally unnecessary.. Please work with people who know and understand and care about these four legged animals who can't speak for themselves I believe that All Creatures Great And Small fits to see the big picture. Don't make this selfish agenda when you can work with people like horse connection and others .Even the grazing horses do help with fire control. We as a family highly are against this fencing to block access to waters. Marty and Judy Babione. I would have attended meeting but at 80 have limited access. Thank you for listening about just some of the things this would impact in our beautiful community.

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