



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

1 April 2019

Ms. Dorothea Boothe, Acting Coordinator
Wild Horse and Burro Program, Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 2134 LM
Washington, DC 20240

Support for the appointment of Dr. Vernon C. Bleich to the National Wild Horse & Burro Advisory Board, Wildlife Management Organizations Representative

Dear Ms. Boothe,

The Wildlife Society supports the appointment of Dr. Vernon C. Bleich as the wildlife management representative to the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. Founded in 1937, TWS and our network of affiliated chapters and sections represents more than 15,000 professional wildlife biologists, managers, and educators dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation.

Dr. Bleich, a Certified Wildlife Biologist® with over 40 years of professional experience, has devoted his career to studying western wildlife populations, improving their management, and advancing conservation of species and habitat. He has completed extensive government and academic work with western wildlife species reliant on rangeland health, including mule deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, and sage-grouse.

Dr. Bleich has used his documented knowledge on native wildlife interactions with rangeland resources to constructively engage diverse sets of stakeholders on rangeland management issues. This work included a Federal Advisory Committee appointment to the Dakotas Resource Advisory Council, and several interagency taskforces dealing with issues surrounding wild horse and burro overpopulation.

This experience will provide the Advisory Board with an important perspective on wildlife management practices, and the impacts wild horse and burro management practices have on our native wildlife resources. Through his diverse experiences and extensive interactions with stakeholders, Dr. Bleich has obtained an in-depth understanding of how to work alongside differing viewpoints towards solution-oriented responses.

We are confident Dr. Bleich will be an excellent contributor to the important work of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. If you have any questions regarding The Wildlife Society's support for Dr. Bleich, please contact Keith Norris, Associate Wildlife Biologist®, Director of Wildlife Policy and Communications at keith.norris@wildlife.org or 301-897-9770 x 309.

Sincerely,

Darren A. Miller, Ph.D., Certified Wildlife Biologist®
President, The Wildlife Society