

Drought spurs extreme measures to protect West’s wild horses

By JULIAN HATTEM
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Harsh drought conditions in parts of the American West are pushing wild horses to the brink and spurring extreme measures to protect them.

For what they say is the first time, volunteer groups in Arizona and Colorado are hauling thousands of gallons of water and truckloads of food to remote grazing grounds where springs have run dry and vegetation has disappeared.

Federal land managers also have begun emergency roundups in desert areas of Utah and Nevada.

“We’ve never seen it like this,” said Simone Netherlands, president of the Arizona-based Salt River Wild Horse Management Group. In May, dozens of horses were found dead on the edge of a dried-up watering hole in northeastern Arizona.

As spring turned to summer, drought conditions turned from bad to worse, Netherlands said.

Parts of Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico are under the most severe category of drought, though extreme conditions are present from California to Missouri, government analysts say. Parts of the region have witnessed some of the driest conditions on record, amid a cycle of high temperatures and low snowmelt that appears to be getting worse, National Weather Service hydrologist Brian McInerney said.

The dry conditions have fed wildfires that have destroyed hundreds of buildings across the West. This month, a firefighter was killed battling a blaze near California’s Yosemite National Park.

The federal Bureau of Land Management — which oversees vast expanses of public land, mostly in the West — says the problem



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

In this June 29 photo, wild horses occupy a watering hole outside Salt Lake City. Harsh drought conditions in parts of the American West are pushing wild horses to the brink and forcing extreme measures to protect them. Federal land managers have begun emergency roundups in the deserts of western Utah and central Nevada.



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer

Left: In this June 29 photo, wild horses walk to a watering hole outside Salt Lake City. Right: In this July 12, 2018 photo, baked earth is shown in a dry watering hole outside Salt Lake City. This now dried up watering hole previously provided water to a herd of wild horses.

facing wild horses stems from overpopulation aggravated by severe drought. The region is home to roughly 67,000 wild horses.

“You’re always going to have drought issues. That’s a common thing out on the range,” agency spokesman Jason Lutterman said. “What really exacerbates things is when we’re already over population, because then you already have resource issues.”

The agency’s emergency

roundup in western Utah began a week ago, aiming to remove roughly 250 wild horses from a population of approximately 670. The operation is expected to take several weeks.

Once the horses are rounded up, the government gives them veterinary treatment and offers them for sale or adoption. Those that aren’t sold or adopted are transferred to privately contracted corrals and pastures for the long term.

A similar emergency roundup began this month in central Nevada, where officials said some horses in a herd of 2,100 could die from lack of water in coming weeks. The operation was quickly halted, ironically because of extreme rain, but will likely resume.

“The ground’s so dry it’s not absorbing that water. It’s running off,” bureau spokeswoman Jenny Lesieutre said.

Volunteers are also taking action.

Since late spring, Netherlands’s Salt River group has hauled hay to a dozen locations outside Phoenix to feed a herd of starving wild horses.

Roughly 200 miles north, a couple near Gray Mountain, on the Navajo Nation, have spearheaded an effort to leave water and food for horses they say would die without human intervention.

In western Colorado, volunteers say they’re preparing to bring up to 5,000 gallons

of water per day to a herd of 750 thirsty horses.

“Springs are drying up that have never dried up,” said Cindy Wright, co-founder of Colorado conservation group Wild Horse Warriors for Sand Wash Basin.

Areas of the basin are low on food due to livestock grazing, so the group is hauling the water to others parts with more plentiful grass, said Aletha Dove, another group co-founder.

Wild horse advocates have balked at the Bureau of Land Management’s insistence that wild horse populations are too high. Critics say the agency is using dry conditions as a smoke screen to shrink horse populations in response to pressure from ranchers whose livestock compete with the horses for grazing land.

“I do have a concern about the larger numbers that they’re pulling off, and then a bigger concern about the BLM under this administration using all kinds of excuses to pull off horses,” said Suzanne Roy, executive director of the American Wild Horse Campaign, an advocacy organization.

The agency is prohibited from euthanizing the wild horses it rounds up, though President Donald Trump has proposed allowing the animals to be killed or sold for slaughter.

Activists in Nevada held a rally last week at the bureau’s state headquarters in Reno to protest a planned roundup later this year.

Critics want the government to instead use birth control to manage wild horse populations.

The bureau says the fertility treatment, which must be administered yearly and fired from a dart gun at close range, is too difficult for use except in certain cases where herds are easy to approach and have markings that make horses distinguishable from one another.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

		12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
FOX	11	Paid Program	Paternity Court	Divorce Court	Paid Program	Judge Mathis	The People's Court	Two and a Half Mom	Last Man St.	Last Man St.	Modern Family	Modern Family	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Shazam "Episode Seven" (N)	Love "Aaron and Maconnie" (N)	First at Ten (N)	Dateline							:35 Mike & Molly
	3	12 O'Clock News	Wendy Williams			The Dr. Oz Show	People's Court	Judy	Judy	News (N)		News (N)		Feud	Beat Shazam (N)	Love Conn. (N)	News (N)								Page Six
CBS	2	FunnyAsK	Bold & B.	The Talk		Let's Make a Deal	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Inside Edition	The Big Bang	The Simpsons	NCIS "Keep Your Friends Close"	SEAL Team "Getaway Day"	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	:35 Colbert
	19	News	B & B	The Talk		The Doctors	Dr. Phil		News (N)	News	News	News	News	Extra	ET (N)	NCIS	SEAL Team	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	NCIS:NewOrleans	Colbert
NBC	6	TMZ	Naturally, Danny	Days of Our Lives	The Wendy Williams Show	Daily Mail TV	Daily Mail TV	Ellen DeGeneres	Alex Rodriguez	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Family Feud	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	America's Got Talent "Judge Cuts 2" (N)	WorldDance "The Qualifiers 8" (N)	WorldDance "The Qualifiers 8" (N)	WorldDance "The Qualifiers 8" (N)	WorldDance "The Qualifiers 8" (N)	WorldDance "The Qualifiers 8" (N)	WorldDance "The Qualifiers 8" (N)	News	:35 Tonight
	8	News	Paid	Days of Our Lives	Portland Today	Ellen DeGeneres	KGW News (N)	KGW News (N)	KGW News (N)	News	News	News	KGW News (N)	Cassidy	InsEd.	America-Talent "Judge Cuts 2" (N)	WorldDance (N)	WorldDance (N)	WorldDance (N)	WorldDance (N)	WorldDance (N)	WorldDance (N)	WorldDance (N)	WorldDance (N)	News
ABC	4	The Chew		General Hospital	The Doctors	The Rachael Ray Show	The Dr. Oz Show	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	ET (N)	Extra	The Middle	The Middle	Black-ish	Black-ish	The Last Defense (N)	The Last Defense (N)	The Last Defense (N)	The Last Defense (N)	The Last Defense (N)	News (N) /:05 Jimmy Kimmel
	5	The Chew		General Hospital	Million?	Million?	Afternoon Live	KATU News (N)	Wild Kratts	Odd Squad	Arthur	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	World News	Stevens' Europe	10 That Changed America (N)	No Passport Requ "Chicago" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	News
PBS	31	POV "The War to Be Her"		Fit 2 Stitch	StretchE ssentric	Pinkas Peter	Nature Cat	Ready Jet Go!	Wild Kratts	Odd Squad	Arthur	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	World News	Stevens' Europe	10 That Changed America (N)	No Passport Requ "Chicago" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	News (N)
	59	OPB	13	Paint Paulson	Jazzy Veg.	Mexican Table	Stevens' Europe	Nature Cat	Cat in the Hat	Ready Jet Go!	Arthur	Odd Squad	Odd Squad	Wild Kratts	Ask-Old House (N)	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	10 That Changed America (N)	No Passport Requ "Chicago" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Frontline "UN Sex Abuse Scandal" (N)	Tracks Across

		12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
CABLE	A&E	52	Interve. "Michael"	Intervention		Interve. "Katie"	Intervention	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		Born Bars (N)		:05 The First 48		
	AMC	60	*** The Karate Kid Part III			*** Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black P...				*** The Karate Kid ('84, Dra) Ralph Macchio.								*** Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory		*** Groundhog Day						
	ANPL	24	Animal Cops	Animal Cops		Pit Bull Parolees	Pit Bull Parolees	North Woods Law	North Woods Law	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters	Killer Whales: The Mega Hunt	I Was Prey						
	CMT	43	Home I.	Home I.	Home I.	Home I.	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	*** Elf ('03, Com) James Caan, Will Ferrell.	*** Elf ('03, Com) James Caan, Will Ferrell.	*** Elf ('03, Com) James Caan, Will Ferrell.	*** Elf ('03, Com) James Caan, Will Ferrell.	*** Elf ('03, Com) James Caan, Will Ferrell.	Cowboys Cheer.						
	CNBC	72	Closing Bell				Fast Money	Mad Money	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	The Profit (N)	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Profit "Montiel"	Paid Program					
	CNN	68	CNN Newsroom	The Lead			The Situation	The Situation	OutFront	OutFront	A. Cooper 360	Cuomo	Cuomo	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight	A. Cooper 360	Cuomo	Cuomo	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight	
	DISC	51	Sharks-City: L.A.	Sharkpocalypse		Monster Tag	ShaqSharkWeek	Monster Mako (N)			Hammerhead	Cuba Shark (N)	GuyFieriFrenzy (N)	Laws of Jaws (N)	AirJaws (N)	Shark Dark (L)										
	DISN	26	StuckM.	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	DuckTat.	BigCity	Bizaard.	Jessie	Jessie	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven's	QUIZney	StuckM.	Bunk'd	Bug	Andi M. Raven's.	BigCity	StuckM.	Bizaard.	Bug	Andi M.	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	
	ESPN	33	NBA: The Jump (L)	SportsN	Highly?		Horn (N)	Interrupt	SportsCenter (N)	Humanitarian (N)	ESPY Awards	North Woods Law	River Monsters	River Monsters	River Monsters	Married1stSight	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
	ESPN2	34	J & J (N)	Football	Talk (L)		NFL Live (N)		Horn (N)	Interrupt	NFL Live	WNBA Basketball N.Y./Min. (L)	The Jump (N)	ISKA Highlight	Horn	Interrupt	First Take									
	FNC	66	Shepard Smith	Your World			The Five	Special Report	The Story	The Story	Tucker Carlson	Hannity	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	Ingraham Angle	
	FOOD	61	Southern	GirlFarm	Pioneer	Pioneer	Chopped Junior	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped	Chopped
	FREE	32	Reba	Reba	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Middle	Mother	Mother	*** The Parent Trap ('98, Fam) Lindsay Lohan.						The Bold Type (N)	*** 10 Things I Hate About You	Hate About You	The 700 Club				
	FX	65	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	*** Everest ('15, Adv) Jake Gyllenhaal.					*** The Martian ('15, Adv) Matt Damon.						*** The Shallows Blake Lively.							
	GOLF	88	PGA Golf Barbasol	Championship			Golf Central (N)	School	Academy	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	*** Seve the Movie ('14, Spt) José Luis Gutiérrez.	
	GSN	76	The Chase	C. Rhea	Feud	AmerSays	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	CashC	CashC	CashC	CashC	CashC	CashC	CashC	CashC
	HALL	87	*** Christmas Land	Nikki Deloach.	*** Christmas Cookies	Jill Wagner.	*** Christmas Festival of Ice				*** Christmas at Holly Lodge								*** The Christmas Cottage							
	HGTV	62	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixers	Flippers	Flippers	Hidden P.H.Hunt	H.Hunt	H.Hunt	H.Hunt
	HIST	50	Count.	Count.	Count.	Count.	Drive	Count.	Count.	Count.	Forged in Fire	Forged in Fire	Forged in Fire	Forged in Fire	Forged in Fire	Forged in Fire	Forged in Fire	Forged in Fire	Forged in Fire (N)	Forged in Fire (N)	Forged in Fire (N)	Forged in Fire (N)	Forged in Fire (N)	Forged in Fire (N)	Forged in Fire (N)	
	LIFE	29	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy
NICK	27	PAW	PAW	PAW	PAW	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	
ROOT	37	PAW	PAW	PAW	PAW	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	
SPIKE	42	Bar Rescue	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	2 1/2Men	
SVFY	67	Face Off																								
TBS	59	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
TCM	56	Movie	*** Romeo and Juliet																							
TLC	49	Say Yes	Say Yes	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	
TNT	57	Supernatural	Supernatural	Supernatural	Supernatural	*** Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace																				
UNI	21	Notic.	Vecinos	Rosa Guadalupe	Como dice dicho	El Vuelo de la V	El gordo y la flaca	Primer impacto	P. Luche	Notic.	Rosa Guadalupe	El Rico y Lazaro	Bestias	El Chapo	Impacto	Notic.										
USA	58	SVU "Shattered"	SVU "Trophy"	SVU "Gray"	SVU "Pop"	SVU "Possessed"	SVU "Mask"	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	
WE	118	Law & Order	Law & Order	LawOrder	"Blood"	Law&O. "Shadow"	Law&O. "Burned"	LawOrder	"Ritual"	Law & Order	Law&O. "Expert"	Law&O. "Castoff"	LawOrder	"Grief"	Law & Order: C.I.	Law:Cl" "Love Sick"										
PREMIUM			In Heat of Night	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	
	HBO	518	*** State of Play																							
	HBO2	520	*** The Silence of the Lambs																							
	HBO3	521	*** Good Morning, Vietnam																							
	MAX	549	*** Movie																							
	SHOW	578	*** Sleepless																							
	STARZ	621	*** Miraculous																							
	STZENC	644	*** Notting Hill																							

TUESDAY LATE NIGHT & WEDNESDAY MORNING