

Newsletter

Fall 2014

www.ISPMB.org

YOUR FOUR ISPMB HERDS NEED YOUR HELP Funding for hay is needed pronto!

ISPMB does not have its winter hay purchased and the seasons are changing rapidly. On August 23, 2013, more than six inches of rain fell in less than 24 hours, flooding our pasture and destroying fence lines. The one-year anniversary of that terrible storm, Atlas, is fast approaching – reminding us how erratic our weather has been. We believe this winter is going to bring a lot of cold and plenty of snow. We must have all of our hay in place by the end of October. Please hear our plea straight from the "horse's mouth."



Credit Terry Watson

FROM SAGE, OUR YOUNG SPANISH GILA HAREM STALLION...



Sage our young Spanish Stallion

I was born in South Dakota in 2004, on the beautiful native prairie land. My mother and father were born wild in Arizona. They said it was hot and dry there, and that the water was polluted with poison and fertilizer run-off from the irrigated alfalfa fields. They called it a super fund cleanup site. Even worse, my parents were constantly ducking buckshot from local ranchers who didn't want horses on their lands. I feel blessed that my life is different. I



Sage

But this year, I am worried. By this time, those big round bales are usually stacked around our land. It's enough hay to last through May. But this year, the hay has not yet arrived. Though the late summer rains have kept our pasture green later than usual, cold weather is just weeks away.

You can make the difference this year! Hay prices have become increasingly unstable. Currently, it takes:

\$50 per month (or \$12.50 per week) to feed me or

\$250 per month to feed my precious family of five or \$6,000 to feed our entire herd for a month

I'm proud that the Gilas sent me to ask you for money to feed me and my family. We are each so fortunate to be happy and safe, safe from chemicals and guns and uncertainty. I know if you come and visit me, you would be so amazed watching how we work together helping each other. Now I hope you can help us. Please consider an immediate donation to our winter hay fund.

I live in peace, safety and harmony with my family thanks to the work of ISPMB. This past year, I took on a big responsibility and now have several mares in my harem that I care for very much. Every day, I am thankful for the big blue prairie sky, my full belly and acres and acres of rolling hills to gallop up and down.

I am a part of the new generation of Gilas. Our continued survival now depends on your generosity. My herd and I share our land with prairie dogs (who definitely eat their share and more of our grass), badgers, red foxes, eagles, hawks – and even a mountain lion that passed through this spring. The grass doesn't last long with 118 of my fellow Gilas grazing. The site of the tractor carrying round bales of hay is a wonderful site when the weather turns cold.

And it is very cold in South Dakota. We Gilas can handle the cold, the snow and even the bitter 60-mph winds. We simply eat lots of hay to stay warm. I alone can eat a 1,000-pound bale in one month. I am glad to say I have never experienced hunger. There is always food in front of my family.

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Our goal is to raise \$200,000. *Every donation is such a help no matter what size.* If we can count on everyone, we can do this.

I wanted to share our good news with you. We are fortunate to have a grant writer join ISPMB. She is Elizabeth Elkins from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She is quite talented and we are now concentrating on getting our CENTER land. We will keep you informed of our progress. Once we have land, we won't have to feed hay any longer! *The horses and I thank you!*



Karen and Gila stallion Ian

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Even if protections are lifted, the ruling by the solicitor (2002) said it would be difficult to develop treaties with the foreign lands where these animals go. This is a very bad idea and you can write to the BLM and express your outrage that they would even consider such a proposal. Please add that they should leave the animals on public lands and stop disturbing and destroying their social structures which increases fertility, not to mention the cost to the taxpayers for holding the animals that SHOULD NEVER have been removed from their lands (52,000) in the first place. Demand that they monitor the habitat and remove those animals responsible for damage – livestock.

Joan Guilfoyle, Division Chief
Division of Wild Horses and Burros
20 M Street, S.E.
Washington, DC 20003





NohookaDine meeting with president Ben Shelly on August 3rd. Leland Grass officiating.
photo credit, Sarah Begay

WILD HORSES TRAMPLE BEN SHELLEY IN RECENT NAVAJO ELECTION

President Ben Shelly placed seventh out of 17 candidates running for reelection in the Navajo Nation primary. He was hoping for a second term but was denied the opportunity by losing to former president, Joe Shirley Jr. and one-time Arizona representative Chris Deschene who will face off in November's election.

Navajo Medicine person Leland Grass said, "Horses are the leaders," meaning the practice of traditional ways supersedes tribal politics. Traditional people consider their horses as a sacred part of Navajo life.

"Shelly needs to go home and learn traditional ways from our elders," Grass added. The two candidates running are thought to support Navajo horses. Time will tell.

HONESTY IN MEDIA REPORTING TELLING THE WHOLE TRUTH

Remember the headline story about Clive Bundy who ran his cows in Nevada and refused to pay the BLM grazing fees, racking up over a million dollars debt to our government? Forbes.com reporter Vickery Eckhoff broke the story. She was fired right after its publication. One has to wonder why this firing came so closely on the heels of her investigative whistle-blowing.

This may be the sentence that did it: "If there is an invasive species here, it's cattle and sheep. Wild horses, as early fossils show, originated here—and they're a lot better suited to restoring the

landscape than the cowboys and federal grazing program that's looking to get rid of them—with the help of unwitting but fleeced taxpayers."

According to Eckhoff, her boss Steve Forbes, runs cattle in New Jersey and enjoys a break in his property taxes.

Her past articles for Forbes include stories about horse slaughter, racing and wild horses.

ISPMB'S BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE COMMITTEE TO BEGIN THIS FALL

As ISPMB continues to move forward in protecting wild horses through science, we are pleased to announce the formation of our first wild horse behavioral science committee. Our goal is to continue to expand in the field of behavior. Understanding wild horses' complex social structures is key to their ultimate protection. Their behavior, unlike that of domesticated equines, represents the true nature of the horse living in a wild state for the past 500 years.

Mary Ann Simonds (ISPMB's Research Director) MA, Interdisciplinary Consciousness Studies, John F. Kennedy University. BS, Wildlife Biology and Range Management, University of Wyoming.

Dr. Nicholas H. Dodman (Tufts University) BVMS, Specialty Behavioral Pharmacology and Animal Behavior, Glasgow University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Sharon Crowell-Davis (University of Georgia) – DVM, PhD, DACVB, Social Organization/Maternal Behavior/Behavioral Development, University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Sid Gustafson (University of Guelph) Equine Behavioral Instructor.

We are delighted to welcome these highly-credentialed people to ISPMB, and look forward to their contribution to the continued study of our four wild herds.



Smoke a very curious young Virginia Range stallion assists Karen on Behavioral Studies

REMINDERS

- Please send us your e-mail address so we can send you alerts and reduce mailing costs.
- Pass our newsletter onto a friend and help ISPMB grow.
- We do not share or sell our mailing lists. Your name is safe with us.

Give the Gift of an ISPMB Membership

\$35 annual membership
\$15 Seniors and 18 and under





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Check out: our website for the
latest news and pictures:

www.ISPMB.org

or Visit us on Facebook!
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ISPMB Historical Trivia

ISPMB was instrumental in getting a gold
standard burro management plan for the
Black Mountain Burros who cross over on
unprotected lands.

Prior to that 49 wild burros were shot to death
in the area. Our Eco-team received the
Health of the Land Award from the
Dept of Interior in 1996.



Help us KEEP THEM WILD!

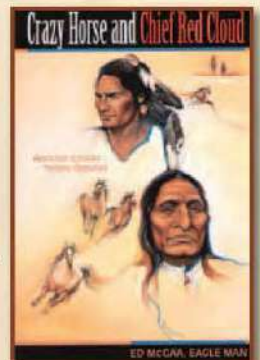
Two Great Books!

Wild Horse Annie and the Last of the Mustangs

All proceeds benefit ISPMB
Velma's original organization!.

CRAZY HORSE AND CHIEF RED CLOUD

We thank Ed McGaa, Eagleman, for the
donation of his excellent book about these
two warrior Oglala chiefs. All proceeds will
be donated to ISPMB for hay!



Only \$26.⁰⁰
includes shipping

To order books, order a membership or simply make a donation go to our website:
www.ISPMB.org • Call: 605.964.6866 • Email: ISPMB@lakotanetwork.com

Only \$15.⁰⁰
includes shipping

WE CAN PUT ANY SIZE DONATION TO WORK! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Other Ways YOU CAN HELP

- Carrots for Rita \$5
- Senior feed for our elders \$18
- A bale of hay for one horse \$100
- Feed two horses for a month \$200
- Purchase a bag of milk for a foal \$125
- Sponsor a Horse \$150
- Sponsor an Orphan \$500
- Sponsor a Band \$1000
- Sponsor a Herd \$5000
- Feed four herds per month \$50,000
- Feed four herds for six months \$300,000



SEARCH WITH GOODSEARCH

Please go to Goodsearch.com
and sign up as your charity, the
International Society for the
Protection of Mustangs and
Burros. Each time you do a
search on this search engine,
ISPMB receives one penny. It all
adds up and can help sustain
your horses!



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