

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs & Burros

Join us in the same *Spirit*
as our first president, Wild Horse Annie!



Newsletter

Winter 2016 (February 2016)

www.ISPMB.org

Will the Brutal Deaths of 1,794 Wild Horses Be in Vain

We reported in 2012 about Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar's "friend," Tom Davis, who admittedly sold 1,794 wild horses through intermediaries for slaughter in Mexico. This case was investigated by the agency in question who sold the horses to Davis, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM found no problem and denied that there was a relationship between Secretary Salazar and Mr. Davis. However, Mr. Davis did work on the Salazar ranch according to reports.

The case was turned over to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in July, 2015 and a report was issued on October 23rd, 2015.

Davis admitted that most of the horses purchased for \$10 were sold for slaughter. He also admitted that he knew he should not sell horses to anyone who would sell them for slaughter. He exonerated the BLM by stating that BLM was not aware of what he was doing.

Davis was the largest buyer of wild horses. The second largest buyer bought 325 animals. The

BLM instituted a policy that people can only adopt 4 horses within a six month period. The OIG referred the investigation to the District of CO as well as the State of CO Conejos County District Attorney's Office, which declined both criminal and civil prosecution.

On November 10th, 2015, Representative Vern Buchanan (R-16th district FL) sent a letter to Secretary Jewell demanding to know how these horses ended up in Mexico, slaughtered in violation of the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act.

According to Buchanan, "I am also troubled that, as part of this illegal sale, \$140,000 of taxpayer money was used to transport horses to the buyer. Moreover, the sale by BLM helped the buyer earn more than \$150,000 in profits from selling the horses for slaughter. These are funds that properly belong to the American public."

On December 7th, Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA) and Michelle Grisham (D-NM) sent a letter to US Attorney, Loretta Lynch, at the



Photo by Weldon Lee

Department of Justice seeking criminal action against the BLM and Tom Davis.

If you have a good relationship with your Congress people, we encourage you to ask that they take action encouraging the Honorable Attorney General, Ms Lynch, to open an independent investigation of this crime against America's wild horses.

ARIZONA SALT RIVER HORSES TO CONTINUE TO LIVE WILD AND FREE

ISPMB is pleased to announce that Neil Bosworth, Forest Supervisor of the Tonto National Forest, who oversees the Salt River Wild Horses, has announced on December 11th that the Forest Service (FS) has rescinded their removal order. That means the wild horses will continue to live safely along the river.

Although ancestors of these horses have lived along the river for well over one-hundred years, the FS has not recognized the horses under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. The state of Arizona maintains jurisdiction over the horses.

ISPMB's team met with the Forest Service on December 4th and was apprised of the news by Mr. Bosworth. We congratulate Mr. Bosworth on his decision and will support and assist him in protecting the Salt horses.

ISPMB has taken an active but quiet role in working to help create a positive solution for the horses. Called in by Representative Townsend to assist the state, ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman, flew to Phoenix in August and met with the state and with the Forest Service.

It has been ISPMB's position that the issue could be resolved without legal challenges, although the law firm of Snell and Wilmer is representing ISPMB in consultation. Sussman says, "The Salt River wild horse issue is complex because it entails the State of AZ, the Forest Service, and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. We are so thrilled to have Ms. Cynthia Chandley of Snell and Wilmer representing ISPMB on a pro-bono basis regarding the Salt River horses."

In October, ISPMB put up a \$5,000 reward through the Sheriff's department for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for shooting the Salt River horse named Dottie.

ISPMB is especially grateful to the bipartisan support of the Senators and Representatives both state and federal, who are supporting protection of this historic horses. The horses were the front line news in Arizona for many months.

Although, these horses are not protected by the 1971 Act, we are hopeful that the state will place protections for these magnificent



Photo credit for Salt River horses - Jill Irvin

river horses. The Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, whose lands the horses reside on and cross over to Forest Service lands, already have a strong management plan for these horses. The Community stands strong in protecting these horses. We commend the Pima-Maricopa Indian Community on their support of the horses.





FAREWELL TO RITA OUR LAST ISPMB BURRO

South Dakota is hostile territory for any wild burros who have evolved in desert climates. Rita, our all black burro from Lake Havasu City in AZ, joined ISPMB in 1986, the year she was born. She and her mother, Margo, were brought to us by the BLM. Black burros are quite rare and thought to have come from the island of Malta. We laughed, as they both brayed so loudly and worried at the same time, fearing they would wake the neighbors. Both burros seemed to know

when our eyelids opened in the morning. While feeding them, we encouraged them to sing calling their names, Margorita (Margarita). Rita was 29 this past year and she was saddened with the loss of her stable mate Jacque in January the year before.

However, we always kept her busy and she always talked to us. Her beautiful black hair was turning almost white all over her face. She still had her beautiful bray which we captured on our FB page shortly before she died. In her old age, she really had no maladies that made life hard for her. We kept her in the barn in the winter for warmth and she was out during the summer with our band of rescued horses.

Then one day we walked in the barn and we saw she wasn't moving. There were no signs of struggle and it appeared that she just went quietly through the night. This was the easy way out for all of us who dearly loved her as it would have been hard to have to euthanize her.

We'll remember all the carrots this beautiful burro consumed, her long ears perked, her loud bray that could wake up the world, and her contribution to understanding how wonderful it is to have a burro in your life. They are one of the most intelligent animals on earth.

ISPMB APPEALS THE RECORD OF DECISION WITH FOREST SERVICE IN CONTINUING EFFORT TO SAVE HEBER WILD HORSES OF AZ

In a long standing campaign to save the Heber Wild Horses that reside in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF) in northern AZ, ISPMB's attorneys, Anthony Merrill and Tiffany Andersen of Polsinelli Law Firm in Phoenix filed an appeal to the Forest Service Management Plan on December 23, 2015.

In the 2005, ISPMB sought a preliminary injunction and alleged that the USFS (Forest Service) had not conducted a census, inventory, or any other type of survey to determine how many of these approximate 300 to 400 horses were "wild free-roaming" horses and thus entitled to protection under the Act.

ISPMB also alleged that the USFS issued a solicitation entitled "Trespass Horse Capture and Transport, by which the horses were to be captured and transported out of the Apache-Sitgreaves Forest including those in the Heber Wild Horse Territory and all mares, even those with foals." ISPMB argued that USFS violated the Wild Horses Act.

ISPMB successfully obtained the injunction on December 13, 2005, the United States Federal Court for the District of Arizona enjoined the defendants from "rounding up, removing, or awarding a bid for capture and removal of horses from the ASNF. Since our first court case, the FS continues to drag their feet in developing a Territory Plan for the wild horses. The plan remains on hold again until June of 2016. USFS continues to refer to the horses in a denigrating way and often excludes them from their Forest Management Plan.

In the meantime, there have been allegations that over 100 horses have disappeared from the Territory this past year. The Territory is in a remote area, although visited often by wild horse enthusiasts. For years, USFS has allowed ranchers to illegally remove wild horses from the Territory.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By: Karen Sussman

In December it will be 45 years since the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971 passed. Our first president, Wild Horse Annie, was thrilled but held much skepticism in whether the Act would be carried out and abided by the agency who once ordered the deaths of hundreds of thousands of wild horses. This was done by the Grazing Service, the forerunner of the BLM. Yes, this is the "culture" that manages our wild horses and burros. Annie had every right to feel such concern as she had expressed the year before she died in 1976.

Today we face one of the most gruesome times since the Act was implemented and that is the massive removal of the horses/burros since 2004 and now horrific sterilizations experiments on our wild mares. These procedures are cruel and inhumane and should never be carried out on wild animals.

With the loss of nearly half of the herds since 1971 and 75% of those remaining herds having less than viable numbers, we question the use of any birth control on wild horses. ISPMB is carrying out studies now on our two herds that received birth control. We note that wild horses have permanent sterility at 4.5 years of application while the literature states that permanent infertility takes place after 7 years. With the drastic reduction of horse and burros numbers, we need to advocate that the animals need protected from any form of birth control.

(See our article on ISPMB's Population Growth)

We are so proud of ISPMB's herds that are giving us such wonderful data. It is this data that can literally save the herds on public lands. With your financial help, we can get our 16 years of studies out this year. This is critical to saving the last of America's wild horses.

PASSING OF OUR CHERISHED MEMBERS

We are so honored to be remembered in the wills of our long standing members who have supported our efforts over many years. With sadness, we say good-bye to the following:

**Mary Kent, Ellen Barrios, Eugene Christian,
Eleanor Decker and Ms. Jacobs.**

This is truly a final act of love by our members and we are so very grateful. Their names will always be remembered.

SECOND REGIONAL OFFICE IS OPENED BY ISPMB IN THE NORTHEAST

ISPMB is so pleased to open its second regional office this past year. **Ms. Bobbie Meyzen** has been appointed to head this office which is located in Bedford, NY. Bobbie and her husband, Robert, own the La Crémallère Restaurant in Bedford, a classic, but country, French Restaurant which has been family owned since 1947.

Bobbie is originally from Clear Lake, SD but moved East with her family where she grew up. She has her own horses which many are thoroughbreds rescued off the track. Bobbie rides dressage and trains with Lendon Gray.

Bobbie is currently president of the Back Yard Beekeepers Assoc. in CT. She is an instructor for Hive installations and Hive inspections and does a variety of workshops in CT in bee keeping.

She is an avid supporter of wild horses and we welcome her positive energy!



UPDATE ON ISPMB'S POPULATION GROWTH STUDIES ON OUR TWO HERDS

Having four herds that have never been disturbed since they arrived at ISPMB's ranch, we are thrilled to see our data materialize. Both the White Sands herd and the Gila herd are growing at less than half the rate of the BLM's herds (20%). The Gila herd is at 8.83% growth while the White Sands herd is at 7.42% growth.

Observing behaviors now for these 16 years, it is quite evident that the stability of the family bands leads to low growth rates and functional behaviors. This is exactly what DOES NOT happen with the BLM herds. Removals and disruptions of family structures occur every two to three years as they remove horses. We can say that BLM's own management is actually causing the population increase in their herds.

ISPMB is conducting studies on our two herds that received the birth control, PZP. We are looking at band formations before and after application of the drug and unusual behaviors

that are not represented in our other two herds. ISPMB halted the use of PZP on its two herds in 2012. We have noted the following:

Some older mares that cannot conceive due to PZP applications have stolen foals from first-time mothers who have not received the drug. In 2014, we had one mare steal four foals. These foals cannot survive without their mother's milk, especially the colostrum needed to provide immunity for the foals. We were successful in returning three of the four foals to their mothers and the fourth foal was brought in and survived on cow's colostrum from our neighbor's cow.

Our Catnip mares that received 5 years of the drug, PZP, have not had any foals as of now. We anticipate that they are infertile.

Our Virginia Range wild horses had nine mares foal out of 36 mares who received 4.5 years of application of the drug. Seven of the foals died

of the nine mares that foaled. To date, no other mares have foaled. We suspect that infertility could happen as early as four years of application of PZP.

We are working with a University now who will receive future foals that die from any mare that received birth control. We realize that this is new territory for the researchers in trying to determine what could be causing their deaths.

More definitive studies will continue on our herds that have received birth control.



Photo by Colleen burns

ISPMB OPENS ITS FIRST REGIONAL OFFICE IN ARIZONA

Jill Irvin, recently appointed SW Regional Director of ISPMB, has been teaching for 8 years in the Chandler Unified School District.

Ms. Irvin is the founder and Director of Terra Wind Ranch Eco-Action Group, a 501(C) 3 nonprofit. She attends community events with her photography and artwork to raise awareness and educate others about issues surrounding our environment and the creatures with which we share our world. For the past two years, she has been researching and raising awareness of the issues surrounding the plight of the wild horse in our country, specifically, the wild horses of the Salt River and of the Heber Territory in Arizona. She is currently working with the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros (ISPMB) to develop a curriculum on Wild Horse Behavioral Management.

Jill grew up on a farm in South Dakota in a family that believed in and practiced conservation and sustainable agriculture. She graduated

from Montana State University in 1987 with a BA in English Literature and earned her Post Baccalaureate in Special Education in 2010. She is certified in multiple elementary and secondary areas including Science, English, and Special Education and is highly qualified in Math. She currently teaches Environmental Systems Science and Consumer Math and sponsors the Ecology Club at Perry High School in the Chandler Unified School District.

The office will be located in Mesa. Jill has been the instrumental force in doing research for ISPMB both on the Heber wild horses and the Salt River wild horses. **We welcome her on the Council Circle of ISPMB.**



STERILIZATION EXPERIMENTS TO BEGIN ON WILD MARES FROM OREGON

On July 7, 2015, BLM announced that it will initiate 21 new research projects aimed at effective ways to slow the population growth rate of wild horses/burros and reducing the need to remove animals. The RFA (Request for Application) was launched in 2013 and was specific for University applications and US Geological Survey scientists. The application process culminated on December 1, 2013.

All this was the result of the 2013 report from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) with BLM choosing to center on one aspect of their report. In BLM's words, "The NAS found that no highly effective, easily delivered and affordable fertility-control methods were currently available for use on wild horses and burros."

The NAS report summary starts out referencing the report can strengthen the BLM's oversight of the animals on federal lands and that constructive changes could be implemented. It states the BLM has not used scientific rigorous methods to estimate population sizes of the herds nor do they understand their manage-

ment actions on the animals, nor do they assess the availability of forage on the lands. This is what is required in the 1971 Act!

The summary further goes on to say that herds are growing by 15-20%. Of course this evidence comes from the BLM. ISPMB's untouched two herds are growing at rates under 9% allowing the animals to maintain healthy family bonds without ever disrupting them. We were not allowed to come before the committee to give our results, however as it was closed.

In fact we wrote to Secretary Jewell with copies to Director Kornze and Program Director Guilfoyle about our findings in 2014 and we never received a response back from them even though we requested a response.

Recently over 100 mares were transported from Palomino Corrals to a private facility, Broken Arrow located in Fallon, NV. This facility is off limits to the public. It is not clear as of this writing if sterilization experiments will carry on there. However, in OR at the Hines Wild Horse

facility the following experiments will be carried out on 225 wild mares of which some will be pregnant: *(Let me be clear that these actions violate the Act because BLM can only remove excess animals and those animals should not be returned to the range as they will do with sterilized mares. Secondly, this is not what the Act had intended when they advocated "minimal feasible management.")*

1. Ovariectomy via colpotomy.
2. Tubal ligation
3. Hysteroscopically-guided laser ablation of the oviduct papilla.

It should be noted that these procedures on these pregnant mares will produce many deaths.

There are many more studies that the BLM will initiate and we suggest that you go to their site to read them as you can Google it: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/whbprogr/am/science_and_research/usgs_partnership.htm ISPMB responded to the EA on February 2nd and will take further action if necessary.



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*"Saving America's wild horses
and burros since 1960"*



ISPMB Historical Trivia

ISPMB signed a historic agreement with the
BLM in 1990 to do compliance checks on
adopted wild horses/burros in the U.S.

We can put any size donation to work! Thank you for your generosity!

WILD HORSE PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKSHOP **FREE THIS YEAR**

Our 2016 Wild Horses of the West
photography workshop at ISPMB's ranch in
South Dakota has firmed up the dates. They
are June 12-15, 2016.

**The best part - IT'S FREE this year. That's
right. You read it correctly.**

Let me explain . . .

*Lori and I are donating our services this year,
pro bono, to the International Society for the
Protection of Mustangs & Burros (ISPMB).
However, I am asking you to donate \$225 to
ISPMB. This is what we normally pay for every
participant, whenever we conduct a workshop
at their facility. The more people that join us,
the more it will help this great organization
that's fighting to save America's wild horses.*

**If you would like to join us, it's important
that I hear from you right away.**

Warmest regards,
Weldon Lee



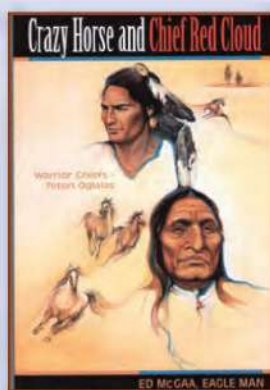
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about these two
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ISPMB for hay!**

Other Ways YOU CAN HELP

- Carrots for Horses \$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

MONTHLY DONATIONS

Thank you to our members who give
monthly to ISPMB and "your" horses.
Giving monthly allows ISPMB to rely on
assured assets. This is of immense help
in determining our budget. If you would
like to give monthly you can do so on our
Pay Pal site. We also have members who
faithfully send checks every month.
Thank you all who support ISPMB!

We hope you understand if we do not
sent a receipt for donations under \$5.00

Thank you!

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