

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs & Burros



Spirit of the Ancients

2019 FALL NEWSLETTER

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ISPMB Hosts Special Visitors

Wild Horse Annie's Niece & Husband Enjoy the Gila Herd

By Karen A. Sussman

September found the Gila herd very inquisitive and allowing their honored guests an extraordinary interactive treat that many visitors only wish to have. There are times that the herd feels particularly wild and we are lucky to be near them. This beautiful September Saturday found them more than curious to the point that our picnic in the field was abbreviated because of all the four-legged visitors surrounding us as we tried to eat.

We were pleased to have Mary and Giles Popish visit for several hours during their time in South Dakota. We exchanged so many stories about horses but it was most exciting to hear all the special tales about Annie (Velma Johnston).

ISPMB has remained close to Annie's family. They will always be a part of ISPMB since Velma was our first president. As Mary and I talked we remembered what a special person Velma was and how her courage changed the world for wild horses and burros. She was a woman before her time when women did not play a public role, but as in Velma's words, "Women stayed home and baked cookies." Velma answered the door with a gun in hand since many ranchers wanted her dead. Mary remembers a time when she did not tell her Aunt Velma that she was coming over and was met with a gun at the door. These stories were always hidden

from Velma's family as she never wanted to worry them. So, the shock to see her Aunt Velma with a gun was an indelible forever memory with Mary.

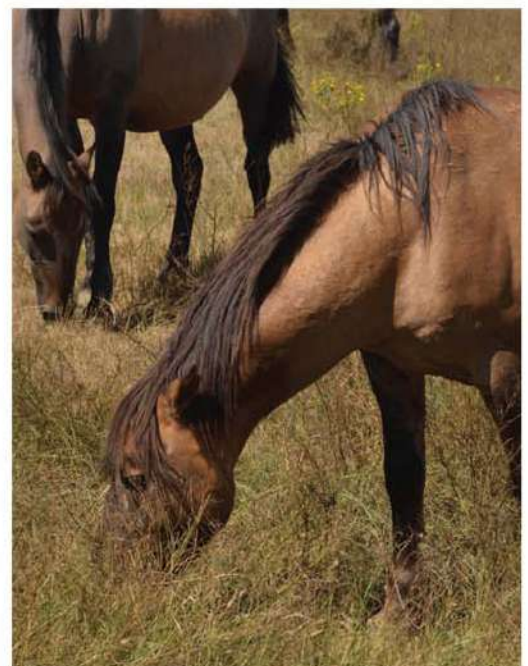
Velma never had children of her own and her nieces and nephews were so very important to her. ISPMB hopes to have the entire family with us when our CENTER becomes a reality and we have our museum built. The CENTER will be dedicated to Wild Horse Annie and America's wild horses and burros.

Amazingly, during our visit, our dominant stallion, Rico, came up to Mary, unannounced, and they were face-to-face. I reminded Mary that she had sponsored Rico and here he is coming to meet her. This magnificent stallion responded as if he and Mary were old friends. I am always excited to see these beautiful behaviors in the Gila herd. It was as if he was thanking her for her support and just maybe an ancient memory of how her Aunt saved thousands of wild horses and burros for future generations to enjoy.

We have so much to owe to Wild Horse Annie and we are so privileged to continue those bonds through her family.



1 Giles and Mary Popish visit with Karen Sussman and meet the Gila herd.



ISPMB's great stallion, Rico, enjoys the fall grass.



The Tragic Sellout of America's Wild Horses

Consequences of Not Understanding the 1971 Act & What You Can Do to Help

The 2020 appropriations bill has completed its journey through the House of Representatives and is now going to the Senate for final approval. In this appropriations bill, 35 million dollars is appropriated for funding that will illegally reduce wild horse populations to 27,000 and allow the remaining 90% of the animals to be injected with PZP, a fertility control pesticide. These actions would ultimately destroy the last of America's wild horses and burros. Also mentioned in this "planned extinction" is the manipulation of sex ratios of stallions to mares, with 70% stallions and 30% mares. Memory is short-sighted as this sex ratio was implemented in New Mexico and nearly resulted in the loss of all the mares in this herd area. One can only imagine the terror the mares had to go through with so many stallions vying for them. Foals cannot survive this onslaught and family band stallions cannot protect their mares against this enormous number of stallions.

Three organizations—Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (APSCA) and Return to Freedom (RTF)—collaborated with the cattlemen's association, stewarded by Chris Stewart (R-UT), one of the most anti-wild horse congressmen in the House of Representatives, to push this through.

These organizations are violating the 1971 Wild Horses and Burros Act, which is very clear in tested law; the federal government cannot arbitrarily and capriciously remove wild horses and burros without determining if they are in excess. One just has to follow the money as millions of dollars of grants are given to groups that advocated for the use of birth control, especially PZP. Some groups receive up to \$500 per horse injected with this endocrine disruptor. These other smaller 100 or so groups support this drug as they are followers of the larger groups.

Their mantra is to leave wild horses on public lands and not remove them, which sounds fabulous for fundraising promotions. Who wouldn't want that to happen? However, all the horses must be captured, removed, contained, and families are disrupted, while they receive their injections. Worse yet, humankind makes the decision as to who should be allowed to procreate and who should not. This is very dangerous and should be left up to the horses – survival of the fittest.

ISPMB's studies show that continued use of this drug, PZP, on wild horses produces sterility in a short time, as little as four years. Had we had more time before ISPMB's herds were dismantled, we would have moved forward with our program to send the deceased foals for further autopsy and evaluation. Out of nearly 36 mares that received PZP, 9 of them recycled after four years, and out of the 9, seven foals died—six immediately and one was a failure to thrive and died at six months. Since we do not have this herd to continue our studies, we will not know for sure what happens to the mares and their foals in subsequent years in the wild. We do know that mares are very unhappy about their inability to conceive and we have noted where mares have stolen foals from first-time foaling mares.

ISPMB needs your support more than ever! We cannot allow this appropriation to go through which will lead to the eventual extinction of America's wild horses. **Please write your Senators and ask them not to support the illegal reductions of the herds to 27,000 animals nor allow any wild horse to have birth control.** Please let them know there is NO overpopulation of wild horses on public lands.

THERE'S MORE TO KNOW

See next page for more details on preventing the Consequences of Not Understanding the 1971 Act.

Here Are the Facts

In 1971, 53.8 million acres were appropriated to wild horses and burros. Today the animals have been relegated to just 27 million acres. The law is clear that the original acreages will always belong to the wild horses and burros. Together, the BLM and FS manage over 440 million acres. There were 303 herd areas and now there are 177 and dwindling. There were 57,040 animals counted in 1974 when the Act passed. Regardless of the numbers of animals on public lands, BLM cannot remove them unless they determine they are causing damage. There are NO studies to do so.

The most important thing to relay is that ISPMB's studies show when wild horses are not disturbed, their fertility rates are half that of the BLM's 20%. It is CRITICAL that family bands are no longer disrupted to preserve the wisdom of the bands and integrity of the herds, keeping the herds stable in growth rates. Remember that you have a right to determine where your tax dollars go and it should not go to the extinction of wild horses and burros.

ISPMB's studies will be out before the end of the year. Your financial support will ensure we meet our goal.



READY TO TAKE ACTION?

Find your representatives and senators using these links:

<https://www.house.gov>

<https://www.senate.gov>

BLM: Find your local office by going online or calling **202-208-3801**

<https://www.blm.gov/office/national-office>

Tax Rigler, Assistant Director, Communications

Phone **202-208-6913** | Email blm_press@blm.gov



President's REPORT

The Truth Must Win

I think it bears repeating the seven truths, once again, so everyone can fully understand what is happening to America's wild horses and burros. Emphasis is on the many groups involved in supporting wild horses and burros but who are misled by larger groups who have millions of dollars in their coffers and continue to repeat the "untruth" that populations need to be controlled with PZP when there is NO overpopulation of wild horses and burros in our country. The false narrative, repeated over and over again, is: when birth control is given to wild horses and burros, they will no longer need to be removed from public lands. BLM's statistics show that horses were still rounded up in areas where birth control was given, such as the Pryor Mountains in MT and other areas. They forget to tell you that in the Little Bookcliffs in CO, where PZP is used, wild horses had to be transplanted into the area because of the LOSS of gene pool within the herd due to the use of PZP.

One aspect that we all have control over is to whom we will give our hard-earned dollars. We just must save the last of America's wild horses and burros. Wild Horse Annie would never approve of giving birth control to an underpopulated group of animals such as our diminishing herds on public lands.

FIRST TRUTH

There is NO overpopulation of wild horses and burros on public lands. This is the truth! When the first count was done in 1974 after the Act passed, BLM counted nearly 60,000 wild horses and burros on public lands. The Act specifically said, "They were fast disappearing from the American landscape." Today we have fewer than 60,000 wild horses and burros on public lands. How can they be overpopulated?

SECOND TRUTH

BLM has, for the most part, illegally removed wild horses and burros from their ranges and has contained them in holding pastures to seek sympathy from Congress and the American public while touting there are too many horses. This rhetoric has eventually led to the BLM, through Congress, requesting "sale authority." This means selling to the highest bidder, even if they are kill buyers.

THIRD TRUTH

BLM must prove the horses are in "excess" before they are removed. They cannot arbitrarily set a number of 27,000 horses and burros as a management number. Excess can only be proven by monitoring the habitat which the BLM does not do.

FOURTH TRUTH

ISPMB's studies reveal that when herds are left alone, they grow at a very slow rate. This rate is half the BLM's rate of 20%. It has taken ISPMB 17 years of citizen science to prove this.

FIFTH TRUTH

PZP has many side effects for wild horses and it renders them *permanently* infertile in a short period of time.

SIXTH TRUTH

Wild horses and burros have a "right" to the use of public lands. Livestock have a "privilege" to use public lands. There is a big difference.

SEVENTH TRUTH

The real lack of understanding of the 1971 law, understanding the true behavior of wild horses, the refusal of the groups to work together, their greed, and their ability to destroy each other has led to this critical moment for wild horses and burros on public lands. (Seven is the universal number and indicative of the importance of this truth.)

Your support of ISPMB is so very important and vital to saving America's wild horses and burros on public lands. We need your help more than ever.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Sussman

Heber Herd UPDATE



© ROBERT HUTCHISON

Arrests Have Been Made in Horse Killings

We are happy to report that there have been no new killings of wild horses in the Heber herd since earlier this year when 20 horses were found dead over the summer. Eleven of these animals documented died from gunshot wounds, according to the Forest Service (FS).

However, a 19-year-old Lakeside man has been arrested in connection with the alleged shooting deaths of two domestic horses found dead near Forest Service Rd 9890G in Pinedale. The suspect, Ryland Hayes, was arrested and booked into the Navajo County Jail on October 11. The Sheriff's office expects more arrests to be made in this case, which could be related to the tragic deaths of the Heber wild horses.

These privately-owned horses were owned by two different parties and were found dead on Forest Service land. The question remains as to whether these owners had grazing permits or were part of a permitted trail-riding group. It is illegal to graze animals on public lands without a permit.

The Navajo County Sheriff's Office (NCSO) is communicating with the Forest Service in regard to the deaths. It is interesting to note that no time was wasted by the NCSO, which investigates domestic killings, as compared to the FS who is responsible for investigating the deaths of the Heber wild horses in which no arrests have been made.

ISPMB continues as the only litigant in a lawsuit filed against the FS in 2006 with the resulting 2007 court stipulation which prevents the FS from removing any of the 200 wild Heber horses within the Heber Wild Horse

Territory, as well as on the Black Mesa and Lakeside Ranger Districts which are considered the Sitgreaves National Forest. This prohibition will continue until the FS completes, with public involvement, an analysis and appropriate environmental document pursuant to NEPA. To date, no territory plan has been completed.

ISPMB stands ready to make sure that the 1971 Wild Horses and Burros Act is followed. We are so grateful to our attorney, Mr. Anthony Merrill of Snell and Wilmer in Phoenix, who has done an outstanding job in saving this herd. This is one of the longest-running lawsuits protecting America's wild horses covering a span of now nearly 15 years.

On a follow-up note, ISPMB will not allow the FS to inject the herd with the pesticide drug, PZP, known as a fertility control drug which is now being proposed. There is *no overpopulation* of animals and the FS must be able to prove overpopulation exists before animals can be removed. There is a constant violation of the 1971 Act by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the FS because neither agency can prove there are an excess of wild horses. In order to do so, these agencies must determine there is damage to the habitat and there are few to no habitat studies. ISPMB is committed to halting these violations once and for all.



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Navajo Horses Need Our Help

Help These Animals Facing Dehydration & Death

Along a 25-mile mesa not too far from Monument Valley exists a small herd of wild horses. A dedicated wild horse admirer has committed 18 months to their preservation using his own money and Go Fund Me drives trying to sustain this herd. This year, he noted the mare population has dropped substantially. For months during the summer, he hauled water in his personal vehicle trying to keep these animals from dehydrating and dying. His truck springs are all but shot, yet he continues as the deaths of any of these horses haunts him.

While ISPMB had taken an active role in meeting with the then-Navajo president, Ben Shelly, in 2013 to assist with the Nation's horse population, there continues to be no real resolution except to remove the animals and send them to slaughter or allow them to die on the reservation.

With three water springs in disrepair, hauling water has been the key to these animals' survival. It is ISPMB's goal to assist in the repair of these springs. We are currently looking into costs which are not available right now as this edition goes to print.

One third of the Navajo nation is covered in sand and we expect temperatures in our country to continue to climb which will no doubt affect this land. Water is going to be crucial.

We hope you will help us save this unique wild herd.





Our beloved Wild Horse Annie, savior of America's wild horses and ISPMB's first president.

ISPMB Elects New Member to Our Council Circle

Craig Downer Inspired by Wild Horse Annie

ISPMB is pleased to announce our new member of our Council, Mr. Craig Downer of Minden, Nevada. Mr. Downer has dedicated his life to the preservation of wild horses and burros and the endangered mountain tapirs of the Andes. Tapirs are closely related to the horses as well as the rhinos, as all belong to the Mammalian Order Perissodactyla and have much in common as to their biology and ecological role.

Craig's love of nature allowed him to pursue a wildlife ecology degree through his candidacy in a PhD program at the University of Durham in the UK. He also has a Master of Science from the University of Nevada, Reno, specializing in wildlife ecology, including the study of movement patterns of grazing ungulates worldwide and field study of Pine Nut Range wild horses, western Nevada. Craig is particularly proud of his Bachelor's degree in Biology, with specialization in Ecology from the University of California –

Berkeley, that helped give him a more well-rounded and universal view of and concern for life.

He was inspired by Wild Horse Annie, ISPMB's first president, whom he personally met and worked with. He is a writer and author of various books including: *Wild Horses: Living Symbols of Freedom* and *The Wild Horse Conspiracy*. Mr. Downer has been true to his values throughout his years and garners the same wild horse management philosophy as ISPMB.



Craig Downer



Lasting Memories in Our Garden of Hope

In Memory of Dr. Philip Glaser, You'll Be Forever Remembered

It is always a sad day when ISPMB must say goodbye to some of our best supporters throughout the years. This year, we recognize Dr. Philip Glaser, who passed this year. Dr. Glaser was an orthodontist who practiced in New York and retired in California. Dr. Glaser was active in animal rights and volunteered at animal shelters for many years. He and his wife, Roberta, will be forever remembered by ISPMB.

A gift to our wild horses and burros in your will or trust will help ensure the safeguarding of their future. Your name will be displayed at the Garden of Hope at our Heritage Center. We are extremely grateful to all of our members who have notified us of their intent to remember our wild horses and burros.



DO A FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER FOR ISPMB

A great opportunity to increase giving to International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros is with a Facebook fundraiser. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/fund/ISPMB/>

Capital Campaign Begins at ISPMB

For the Purchase of Our Eco-Tourism Ranch

Since ISPMB's recent move from the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation last year, we have committed ourselves to finding the ideal location to begin tourism. The future of wild horses and burros depends upon the education of millions of tourists. South Dakota is ideal to do so. Please join our team and help us raise a million dollars to achieve Wild Horse Annie's goal of the creation of a Heritage CENTER.



Gila wild horses—protected forever by ISPMB and your generous donations.

This conservation CENTER will be dedicated to Wild Horse Annie and all the wild horses and burros in our country. For more information, please contact our organization – ispmb@ispmb.org. Your support of this project is so vitally important.



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Wild Burros Slaughtered in the California Desert



\$100,000 Reward Offered for Information Leading to Arrest & Conviction of Perpetrators

A total of 42 burros were found shot and killed along the Interstate 15 near the Nevada state line. These burros were among 120 members of the Clark Mountain Herd Area managed by the Needles field office of the BLM. It appears that the burros were shot in the neck with a rifle. Some were shot while drinking at the Halloran Springs area.

Each burro death represents a \$100,000 fine and up to one year in jail. The increase in fines from \$2,000 to the current fine came about because of ISPMB's initiation of changes in Arizona when 49 burros were killed in Kingman in 1990. Thanks to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1988 and BLM's action to follow through with each federal district, fines are now current with inflation. If the perpetrator is caught, the fine could reach 4.2 million dollars.

However, regardless of the size of the reward, these killers seem to evade capture as they did in 1990 when ISPMB raised \$20,000 to help find the burro killers in Kingman, AZ – the largest reward at that time for the death of animals.





Outer Banks Wild Ponies Swept Out to Sea by Hurricane Dorian

© WEATHERCOM

28 Wild Horses Killed in North Carolina

On September 24, on Cedar Island, North Carolina, 28 wild horses were killed by a mini tsunami that struck the island. The remaining 21 members of the herd could face more danger as the hurricane force becomes stronger each year, even though they have faced many hurricanes in the past.



© GETTY

Cedar Island sits between the mainland and the Outer Banks and extends to Pamlico Sound. The wild horses there are not as well-known as the Corolla and Shackleford Banks horses.

Wild Horses Make Their Home in Chernobyl after 1986 Nuclear Disaster

It has been reported that the rare Przewalski horse, native to Mongolia, have been seen in buildings in Belarus which were deserted following the nuclear power plant accident in Soviet Russia. This area called the "exclusion zone" is now home to many species of animals.

A total of 36 of these rare horses were brought to the border of Belarus and Ukraine 15 years ago to increase the biodiversity of the fall-out area.

Przewalski's horses, named after the Russian geographer Nikolaj Przewalski who found them in Mongolia, might be the last-remaining subspecies of truly wild horse.

It will be interesting to follow these animals over time. It is said that they appear to be thriving without human intervention even though their populations are small.



Onaqui Wild Horses Removed from Northern Utah



Herd Becomes Sickened with Strangles

Another wild herd that received PZP in an experimental fertility control program has been removed from the Onaqui Mountains in Utah totaling 241 animals. They were transferred to BLM's Delta holding facility.

Then to add insult to injury, BLM's Delta corral tested positive for equine distemper caused by *Streptococcus equi*, a highly contagious disease often found in the soil of corrals where infected horses pass through. Distemper, known as strangles, is difficult to get rid of because it lays dormant in the soil of infected corrals. It can also be passed to wild horses from infected domestic animals that sometimes frequent show rings and corrals. All 241 animals are quarantined and most have developed the disease.

The Salt River wild horses in AZ have also had their bout with strangles after they were moved from their usual location along the river to a private area by horse advocates.

Mortality rate of strangles is less than 10 percent. A complication from the disease is purpura haemorrhagica which causes swelling of the legs and impairment of the circulation.



William Perry Pendley Becomes Acting BLM Chief

William Perry Pendley was appointed as BLM's Acting Director on July 29 following in the footsteps of Ryan Zinke and David Bernhardt, Department of Interior secretaries. At a recent gathering in Fort Collins, CO, Pendley declared that wild horses pose the gravest threat to the West's public lands. The real fact is that wild horses are outnumbered 9 to 1 by cattle.

Pendley is a longtime property-rights attorney who has represented Wyoming ranchers in a suit against the BLM to force the agency to remove wild horses from the public range when competing with livestock.

Pendley has spent the majority of his career advocating for the privatization of public lands and removal of regulations. He also believes in weakening the Endangered Species Act.

Pendley's nomination has not been approved by the Senate as of yet. Sadly, this does not appear to be a wild horse-friendly administration.



Remember ISPMB on Giving Tuesday

Don't Forget, Donations are Matched



Your Generosity Helps the Horses!

WE CAN PUT ANY SIZE DONATION TO WORK:

\$5	<i>Carrots for one horse</i>
\$10	<i>Small bale of hay for one horse</i>
\$20	<i>Senior feed for our elders</i>
\$90	<i>Large bale of hay*</i>
\$150	<i>Sponsor a horse for a year</i>
\$500	<i>Sponsor a foal for a year</i>
\$1,000	<i>Sponsor a band for a year</i>
\$5,000	<i>Sponsor a herd for a year</i>
\$35,000 ...	<i>Feed Gila herd for a year**</i>

**Feeds an average horse for approximately a month*

***Become a lifetime member of ISPMB*



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