

ISPMB  
SPRING  
2022  
NEWSLETTER



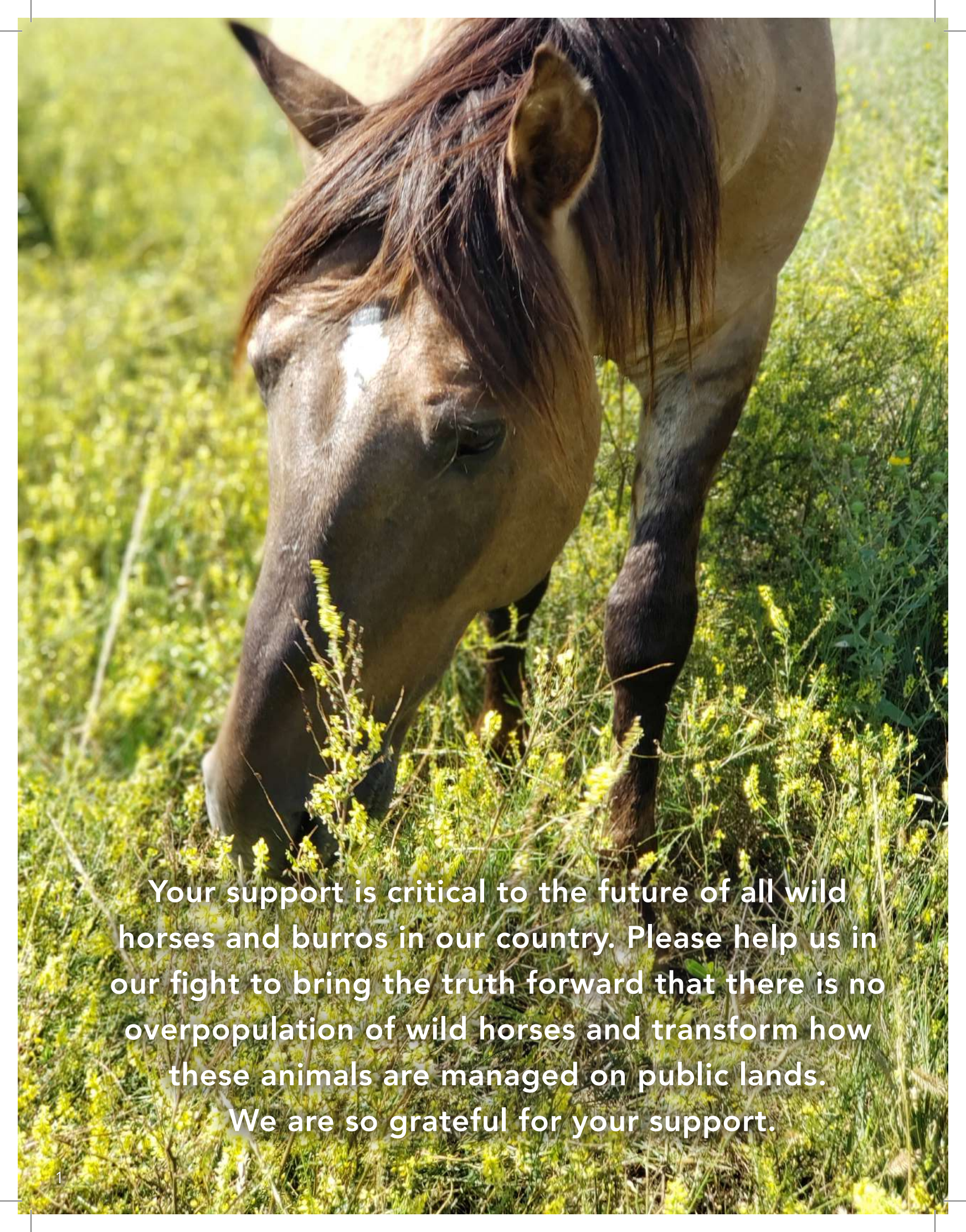
# WILD HORSE & BURRO DIARY

A Publication of the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros  
*The Oldest Wild Horse and Burro Organization in the United States*

PO Box 435, Rapid City, SD, 57709  
[www.facebook.com/ISPMB](https://www.facebook.com/ISPMB)  
[www.ISPMB.org](https://www.ISPMB.org)



Photo: Wally Jarratt



Your support is critical to the future of all wild horses and burros in our country. Please help us in our fight to bring the truth forward that there is no overpopulation of wild horses and transform how these animals are managed on public lands. We are so grateful for your support.

# Update on Heber Horses

These wild horses in northern Arizona are still safe from capture by the Forest Service. ISPMB expected that a Record of Decision (ROD) would be issued in 2022 for which ISPMB is prepared to take the Agency to court to protect this unique and rare herd. The ROD has now been delayed until January, 2023.

Saving this herd is critical to the future of all wild horses. They show that when a herd is left alone to manage itself, it has the ability to limit its population based on the fact that the horses have strong and wise family social-bonding structures – behavioral characteristics which have been strengthened and carried out over eons of time, thereby allowing for their survival. And they can continue to pass these extraordinary behaviors down to their offspring educating future generations on survival.

When the Agencies go in and disrupt these herds every four years with unnecessary roundups, they are destroying the very fabric of these beautiful behaviors. They are destroying our wild horses.

ISPMB is very proud of our attorney, Anthony Merrill, who is the lead attorney on the Heber case. ISPMB has been with Mr. Merrill since 2005 when we filed to stop the removal of these historic horses. Since that time, he has committed his time pro-bono for ISPMB and for the horses. We cannot thank him enough and his firm, Snell and Wilmer, the largest law firm in Phoenix, Arizona, for all they have done! These wild horses are truly a part of the heritage of the state of Arizona and they deserve to live in the forest wild and free.

Last year, the firm and Mr. Merrill donated a significant amount of money in lawyers' fees and worked intensely on the Heber herd with ISPMB. We are eternally grateful. This firm and Mr. Merrill represent what is truly "good" in this world.



PHOTO: ROBERT HUTCHINSON



## *Vilsack Says No to the Study of the Heber Herd*

After six months of repeated calling to Secretary Vilsack's office, ISPMB finally received an answer to our request to make the Heber herd a study herd. The letter was dated 2/11/22 and "stamped" with Secretary Vilsack's signature. You can view the letter on our website at <https://ispmb.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Visack-letter.pdf>.

The one-page letter states at the bottom, "Please know that we will not be pursuing a study area for the Heber herd."

The Secretary's office was given all the information regarding the herd size in 2005 at 300/400 and current census in 2021 at 414. Yet they claimed there were 700 wild horses there. We know that not to be true.

According to the Agencies' calculations of herds doubling every four years and growing at rates of 20%, the herd should now have 4,800 horses in the forest.

We must question why this herd should not be studied. Could it be that the Agencies would then have to manage these horses as the 1971 Act states, with "minimal feasible management?" In other words, leaving them alone. That cattle would have to be removed in lieu of wild horses? Cattle are actually the culprits causing irreparable damage to the habitat. That the Agencies would have to accept wild horses and burros as a protected species so cherished by the American people? The Agencies never wanted to

manage for wild horses and burros. Rather than understanding wild horses and burros as wildlife species, the Agencies have managed them like livestock literally destabilizing their wonderfully evolved social structures and slowly destroying the herds. And the costs of this mismanagement have not only cost the well-being of wild horses and burros by removing them but cost the taxpayers millions upon millions of dollars over this 50-year period that was squandered and could have gone into monitoring the habitat and improving conditions of the habitat.

The National Academy of Sciences was mandated through PRIA (Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978). The idea was to learn as much about wild horses and burros that they could amass. Of course, one of the top priorities of the Agencies was birth control which is not surprising because the Agencies wanted a means to CONTROL wild horses and burros.

Knowing the past history of the BLM indicates a "culture" that never wanted wild horses or burros to last on public lands. After all, they were a livestock agency. Prior to the Agency becoming the BLM, they were known as the Grazing Service which sought the eradication of wild horses and burros from federal lands killing tens of thousands of wild horses over thirty years. Understanding this culture makes it understandable why citizens and organizations have had to fight tooth and nail to keep wild horses and burros protected on public lands.

## *Please Write to Secretary Vilsack the Following:*

1. *We are asking that you declare the Heber herd in northern Arizona a "study herd" with your authority in Section 10 of the 1971 Act.*
2. *The National Academy of Sciences recommended a 5-7-year study to understand wild horse behaviors in 1980 - 1982.*
3. *Your Agency and the BLM decided against it in 1984 stating the following: "The most pressing question concerning further research for the Agencies is whether the benefits of increased knowledge and efficiency will justify the costs."*
4. *The Heber herd has cost your Agency very little over these past 15 years and the herd remains stable and intact and is doing a great job at reseeding the forest after the big fire in 2002.*
  - *There were 300-400 wild horses in 2005*
  - *In 2021 there were 414 wild horses*
  - *Heber herd shows less than 1% increase in numbers*
  - *According to your "science" there should be 4,800 horses in the forest - 20% growth rate and doubling every four years.*
5. *Yet, the yearly cost of removals of wild horses and storing them is estimated at \$77 million dollars annually. Certainly, the study would have justified the costs!*
6. *I am urging you to implement Section 10 of the 1971 Act and make this herd a "study herd" for the next 5-7 years.*
7. *Finally, is this not the administration that recognizes science as directing your decisions?*
8. *Then this study will transform how wild horses are managed by the Agencies.*
9. *BOTTOM LINE: ISPMB has shown with their herds that stable band structures = stable minimum growth. It is their STABILITY that minimizes growth! The Heber herd exemplifies this stability.*
10. *Please address your letters to: (Please be polite)*  
*The Honorable Secretary Thomas Vilsack*  
*1400 Independence Ave. S. W. Ste. 200A*  
*Washington, D. C. 20250*





PHOTO: BETTY NIXON

## *Alpine Wild Horses Threatened With Removal*

In the Eastern Apache side of the Apache-Sitgreaves Forest, nearly 200 or more wild horses are threatened with removal as they were never declared wild and free-roaming by the Forest Service, which did no real assessment of wild horses in this forest in 1971 when the Act was passed. The FS simply closed their eyes to any wild horses in the forest and it has been a battle for their protection since 1971. If they are removed, they will be sold for slaughter in Holbrook, Arizona. Since attention has been focused on this herd, four of these wild horses were shot. ISPMB will keep you abreast of the developments as they happen.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I have noticed in the last several publications that I have constantly reiterated the fact that there is NO overpopulation of wild horses or burros on public lands. Today, I thought you might find it interesting as to why ISPMB must always report this.

For the past thirty-plus years, the BLM started on the course of a very strong marketing campaign stating that wild horses are overpopulating their rightful ranges. We all know that when a "lie" is repeated over and over again that soon it holds some validity. Especially for those who do not check to see whether that validity is true or a falsehood.

So many people have bought into this false marketing campaign. Those who are the enemies of the wild horses continue to perpetrate this lie. For the most part, these folks would be the livestock permittees, oil and gas drillers, game and fish departments, wildlife departments, hunters, and any groups who stand to benefit if the horses are gone.

Then there are those who believe the myth that birth control can solve all the answers for an overpopulation when there is none. These may be well-meaning people, people who have been sold the lie that horses double every four years and grow at 20% yearly. For the most part, these are the majority of the "humane" groups who have had no experience in managing wild herds like ISPMB has had for the past twenty years.

These groups are sold on the idea that if

you just give them birth control, then you don't ever have to take them off public lands. So not true. And worse yet, the drugs are classified as pesticides and actually, according to some researchers, destroy the animals' ovaries. There is so much wrong with PZP or Gonacon that it would take another long article to begin to show why it should not be used and it is illegal as ISPMB hopes to prove in court.

You may ask, why does the BLM and FS lie about the numbers of wild horses and burros? It is very simple. When the Act passed in

1971, neither wanted to manage

for these living icons of the

American West. It was

just thirty years earlier

that the forerunner

to the BLM, the

Grazing Service,

authorized killing

wild horses in

the West. Tens of

thousands of wild

horses and burros

were eradicated.

If one understands

that the BLM's culture is

made up of cattlemen and livestock

producers for nearly 100 years, one does not change this culture overnight - if ever.

Please read the PEER articles that appear in this newsletter. The truth is out. Livestock are destroying the American West. Also note, they are one of the biggest contributors to global warming.

Right now, the Agencies are determined to reduce horses (illegally) to numbers below what they were in 1971 when the law indicated that they "were fast disappearing from the American scene."

*(continued on page 14)*



## Heber Horse Shootings Continue



PHOTO: ROBERT HUTCHINSON

Three Heber wild horses were shot to death sometime between the end of December and early January 2022. The horses were already buried by the Forest Service before any advocate could view and identify these horses. There have been nearly 40 deaths since 2018. There is a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator. Please call the Navajo County Sheriff's Tip Line at 928-524-4050. To date, the advocates do not know which horses were shot, as FS advised them, and the case is under investigation.

It should also be noted that the fine for killing a wild horse is \$100,000. Somehow the FS and advocates do not mention this important information. Due to the efforts of ISPMB and law enforcement agents of the BLM, the fines were increased in the early 1990s due to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1988.



# Spirit of the Ancients

## Sponsorship Program

ISPMB manages an extremely rare Spanish herd of wild horses.  
Your sponsorship will help us keep them running free!

Become a part of the sponsorship program with the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros (ISPMB), the oldest wild horse and burro organization in the United States.  
Your sponsorship helps with the care of our Gila herd and supports ISPMB's conservation goals.



*Sponsor a Wild Horse ..... \$150/year*

*Sponsor a harem stallion, mare, foal, bachelor or stallion and receive a certificate with a photo of your horse and the history of the Gila Herd.*



*Sponsor a Mare and Foal ..... \$500/year*

*Sponsor this beautiful mare and her foal showing their close bond and follow them as the foal grows. Receive a certificate with their photo. This makes a wonderful gift that someone you love is sure to cherish.*



*Sponsor a Wild Horse Band ..... \$1,000/year*

*Receive a certificate featuring a unique band from the Gila herd. You'll also receive an 8x10" colored photo along with the herd's history.*



*Sponsor a Wild Horse Herd ..... \$5,000/year*

*Receive a certificate, an 8x10" colored photo and a three-day vacation viewing, photographing and interacting with the herds. Your name will be inscribed on our donor wall as a founding member of our International Wild Horse and Burro Heritage Center.*

**JOIN OUR SPIRIT OF THE ANCIENTS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM. TO DONATE:**

SPONSORSHIP PAGE

<https://ispmb.org/sponsor-a-horse/>

MAIL DONATION TO

The International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros  
PO Box 435, Rapid City, SD 57709-0435

605-430-2088 • Tax ID 94-616-9422 • [www.ispmb.org](http://www.ispmb.org)

# Nearly Half of the West Douglas Herd Dead

For the past thirty years, the BLM has threatened to eliminate the West Douglas Herd located in Northwestern Colorado, southwest of the town of Rangely and approximately 50 miles north of Grand Junction. The Herd Area encompassed 123,397 acres of federal land managed by the BLM and 4,754 acres of private land.

One would think with that amount of land, a herd of nearly 400 wild horses could survive for eons of time.

The BLM, which is MANDATED by Congress to protect wild horses, has done anything but protect them. The West Douglas herd is another shining example of the Agency's desire to rid the public lands of wild horses. How could they claim that this area, where these historic wild horses were, "should not" be managed? How can they claim that horses protected on their Herd Areas by law will no longer be protected as their lands are protracted to "Herd Management Areas?" Nowhere in the Act does the law give BLM the ability to decide where and when wild horses and burros should be managed. They were designated as guardians of America's wild horses but actually they are the "foxes guarding the hen house." (Please see President's Report)

In August of 2021, the BLM conducted the largest wild horse roundup in Colorado state history, capturing over 303 wild horses. The BLM states that 60% of the land was consumed in the Oil Springs Fire in June, 2021 but only 12, 613 acres

were consumed when the fire was 97% contained in July. The BLM has always used drought and climate conditions to remove wild horses/burros. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) is specific about keeping the animals on the range. Drought and climate changes are not to be used as excuses to permanently remove the animals. Livestock MUST be removed before wild horses and burros. This regulation has been and continues to be ignored.

However, the truth about their removal from their sacred site in which they have roamed for hundreds of years is simple. Oil and Gas drilling! During the George W. Bush Administration, 93% of the Herd Area was leased to energy companies. The horses would then be considered incompatible with the region's intensive gas production.

It seems easy to understand why horses are not compatible with gas exploration. Wild horses are a protected species and what would happen if the water would be contaminated by gas production? After all, the highly subsidized gas industry, which has never made a profit, uses a lot of water and chemicals that are drilled down into the rock below. Since wild horses are a protected species, there would be an investigation as to their deaths if they began dying from contamination and then something would have to be done about it. If there are no horses in the area, then there are no worries.

*(continued on page 10)*



## TIME MAGAZINE COVERS HEBER HORSE SHOOTINGS



Time magazine covered the killings of the Heber wild horses in their April 11-18 issue of this year. The Heber herd is gaining national attention now. That is a good thing. Interviews with informed wild horse advocates are necessary to continue to bring attention to what's happening to the Heber horses in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona. We hope future articles will be about this very unique herd's ability to remain stable and in balance with nature, reseeding the forest, and regenerating the soils. Betty Nixon worked with Time magazine on the story, showing them her beloved Heber wild horses - and their remains - in the field. She has long been dedicated to monitoring the horses of the forest.

Photographs also bring to light the beauty and importance of this special herd. You can read the story online at <https://time.com/6158693/heber-wild-horse-killings-arizona-betty-nixon/>.

## Nearly Half of the West Douglas Herd Dead (continued)

Now the herd has languished in the Colorado prison system in Canon City, Colorado. A training and holding facility for more than 2,500 wild horses packed together like sardines.

So how did 142 wild horses die there so far? The horses were never vaccinated or, according to the BLM, had limited vaccinations and with the dust storms raging through Colorado and the Midwest, and the crowded conditions, it was the perfect storm for a virus.

The horses were diagnosed with H3N8 strain of equine influenza A, an endemic strain in North

America which is highly contagious and spread by contact with infected animals coughing and excreting the virus. It can also be spread through contact with contaminated clothing, brushes, and people working with the animals. This virus is related to but distinct from the viruses that cause human and avian influenza.

These horses have suffered immeasurably at the hand of the BLM. First to lose their ancient home in West Douglas; to be permanently separated from their families forever; and to be placed in these crowded holding areas without health care is beyond our imagination of cruelty.



## Darting Wild Horses to Extinction

In November, 2020 Steve Cohen (R TN) and Dina Titus (D NV) introduced an amendment to the 2021 Appropriations bill to increase the amount of funding for immunocontraception for wild horses and burros by providing over \$21 million in additional funding. According to this amendment, it is recognized that BLM's recent plan to Congress calls for accelerated roundups expected to cost nearly a billion dollars over the next five years. This removal process increases growth rates through "compensatory reproduction." Consequently, this amendment calls for reducing removals, which will actually benefit wild horses, but why Congress is asking for the extra funding will put the horses on the road to extinction.

The plan is to use PZP and begin darting wild horses with the "pesticide" birth control which will destroy their ovaries and cause permanent infertility in as short as four consecutive years of use. This amendment claims that PZP is the most effective way to manage wild horse populations. How wrong they are!

The new draft proposal dated April 30, 2022 contains the same language for the new fiscal year and continues the mantra that "robust humane, reversible fertility control plan with immunocontraceptive vaccines" is only 1% of the budget while the Agencies spend upward to \$77 million annually to round up and hold wild horses and burros. The increase in the funding in this amendment to the appropriation bill will give \$11

million just for birth control. Again, we would love the Agencies to stop removing wild horses and burros but for the right reason.

That reason lies within the Heber wild horses in northern Arizona. Their population is stable and they have limited growth without mountain lion predation. They mimic ISPMB's findings with our wild herds. The band structures within the herds must be stable and not disrupted unlike how they currently are managed on public lands where they are rounded up every four years. The Heber herd has not been disrupted in over 17-plus years! Their growth rate is under 1%. Stable band structures in a herd = minimum stable growth. These are ISPMB's findings. ISPMB has gained tremendous knowledge over the past twenty-plus years in understanding herd behaviors and what really limits populations and it is not birth control.

This is how the herds managed themselves for eons of time. Their ancestors lived in North America for 60 million years! Why would we know better than these wildlife species as to who should breed and who should not by injecting them with this poisonous birth control drug?

We have mismanaged domestic breeds, such as the Quarter Horse, through poor breeding practices. The average age of soundness of those horses is seven years just when they are entering the prime of their lives. These animals end up "sold for slaughter" because they are lame.

**PLEASE CALL AND WRITE YOUR CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE NOT TO SIGN ON TO THE USE OF PZP ON WILD HORSES BUT TO GIVE THAT APPROPRIATION TO THE STUDY OF THE HEBER WILD HORSES IN ARIZONA. THIS STUDY WILL TRANSFORM HOW WILD HORSES SHOULD BE MANAGED FINALLY PROTECTING THEM FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AMERICANS TO ENJOY.**



## *Livestock Grazing is the Cause of Deterioration of Public Lands*

Thanks to a very professional organization called PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility), the Agencies can no longer blame the degradation of public lands on wild horses and burros. This organization protects public employees and public lands and because of their actions, many employees blow the whistle about what is happening on public lands. Lands that are for the "public," for all of us to enjoy. Yet our public lands are subsidized by ranchers and oil and gas drilling.

In 1985, ISPMB was on a quest to find out just how many livestock were on public lands. In the age of information technology that we currently live in, finding this data still took a tremendous amount of work by PEER. When ISPMB inquired, we were told that we must go to every field office of the BLM and look at each permit to determine the amount of livestock grazing. We knew that this would take a lifetime of work to find this information. But because PEER has so many "anonymous activists" in federal government, it only took them several years. They have an interactive map which can be accessed at: [BLM Rangeland Health Status \(2020\) - The Significance of Livestock Grazing on Public Lands - Interactive Web Map \(mangomap.com\)](#)

Here is what this fine organization found on the ecological health of the land:

- BLM administers 245 million acres of land.
- Of that land, 155 million acres is leased

grazing allotments in 13 western states.

- More than 50% of BLM acres assessed fail the Agency's own land health standards with livestock grazing as a significant cause.
- This equates to 54 million acres, roughly the size of Wisconsin, which fail to meet BLM's minimum standards for soil and water quality, vegetation, and functional wildlife habitat due to overgrazing.
- Much of the land identified as priority habitat for the threatened and endangered Sage Grouse lies in ecoregions where more than 40% of assessed lands fail to achieve land health standards due to livestock grazing.
- BLM has yet to assess 27% of leased grazing allotments, or nearly 41 million acres, an area the size of Arizona, and many of these unassessed areas are surrounded by allotments not meeting land health standards due to overgrazing.

Finally, PEER states, "In short, BLM's own data document that it is presiding over an unfolding ecological disaster - massive deterioration of the increasingly arid Sagebrush West. This management breakdown belies the BLM mission to 'sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.'"

# Wild Horses Falsely Accused of Decline of Sage Grouse Habitat

A letter was sent to Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland by PEER showing that the majority of lands where the Agency identified wild horses as the causal factor in habitat decline actually shows livestock grazing as the significant cause of degradation - not wild horses.

Yet, the BLM has removed thousands of horses, unnecessarily and illegally, in the effort to appease those protecting the Sage Grouse.

PEER further found that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study released in September 2021 stated that wild horses were adversely affecting Sage Grouse habitat. This false reporting is what the BLM uses to remove wild horses. USGS stated: "Our analysis did not explicitly model livestock (e.g., cattle)... Primarily because of challenges associated with compiling quality spatial data." The USGS had access to PEERS mapping since 2011.

PEER Special Project Manager Kirsten Stade stated, "USGS and BLM have put on scientific blinders when it comes to public lands grazing, noting that cows outnumber wild horses on BLM lands by a ratio of 30 to 1."

"PEER, which has obtained the BLM's rangeland health data via the Freedom of Information Act, charges that BLM's deliberate obfuscation of livestock eco-impacts is a function of political pressure from the ranching industry; and that

- While the Agency scapegoats wild horses for habitat degradation, its data reveal that most of the allotments within Wild Horse Management Areas (HMAs) that fail its standards for rangeland health - approximately 11.5 million acres of the 21.5 million acres of allotments within HMAs assessed by BLM to date - identify livestock as a significant cause of that failure; Livestock are by far the most frequently identified cause of allotment failure to meet standards for quality of water, vegetation, and soils, as well as the ability to support wildlife nationwide, including for allotments within HMAs."

We are so very grateful to PEER for achieving such critical information which shows what we have always believed - that wild horses are good stewards of the land.



TWIN PEAKS WILD HORSES AND CATTLE ARE SEEN GRAZING

PHOTO: CRAIG DOWNER

# GET ACTIVE IN YOUR CITY COUNCILS FOR WILD HORSES

When Lorna Moffat, a longtime member of ISPMB, sat in a patch of clover for lunch with her favorite duck, she took delight in the cool fresh surroundings in the city of Monterey. The next day when she returned the duck was dead.

She found out that the city of Monterey was using Roundup everywhere and she and her "pet" duck were one of the thousands of residents that were poisoned. She went to her city council and started educating them about the dangers of using Roundup. Each meeting she stood up and brought forth frightening scientific data on the devastating effects of this herbicide. A year later the city stopped its use because so many people listening had called in.

City Council meetings provide a powerful venue utilizing the three minutes to air your concerns. Now you can call in or use zoom.

Today, Lorna is speaking out about BLM's corruption and destruction of our wild horses and burros. You can too. She has developed a relationship with her Representative in that district and remains in touch with him.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT *(continued)*

It doesn't take a mental giant to see what is going on. However, always the bottom line is money. Those with the most money and lobbyists win in Congress - not to mention - how many Senators are actually in the ranching business in the western states.

Then money again is alluring for the many wild horse groups who stand to benefit from the millions of dollars appropriated through Congress for shooting horses up with this pesticide, which is irreversible in as little as three consecutive years of use. Yes, they stand to benefit with those millions of dollars. Eleven million, the last time I checked.

ISPMB has a lot of work to do in combating these marketing schemes. We are making headway. We need your help - both in write-in campaigns and in contributions. We can't do it without you.

This truly is the "last stand" for our wild horses and burros. ISPMB remains on the road less-traveled. We are on the side of truth. Please march with us!



**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

A great opportunity to increase giving to International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros is with Amazon Smile donations.

Remember to shop at **Smile.Amazon.Com**

## *IPCC Report 2022*

---

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change) is telling us that we must reduce emissions by 43% by 2030 to keep earth on track keeping temperatures within the 1.5 Centigrade temperature of global warming to prevent the worst effects of climate change. While we recognize that some people do not believe the 99% of scientists who advocate that climate change is human-caused, we must report the very interesting finding of this international committee and how we can help.

We felt it is fair to add all their recommendations where human intervention can help to keep temperatures from increasing. Please make note that beef and fossil fuels are the biggest culprits to climate change. Also, be aware these culprits are the biggest threat to wild horses remaining on their rightful lands.

- **Eat a plant-based diet.** Beef is the most carbo-intensive animal in the world, not only because of the methane they emit, but also the deforestation required to create land for grazing.
- **Fly less.** Did you know flying from London to Singapore and back would constitute our entire carbon budget for one whole year based on 2050 targets?
- **Don't drive.** Living car-free is more impactful than driving an electric car. Seek alternative low-carbon forms of transport where possible.

---

## *War in Ukraine and the Chernobyl Horses*

Last issue, ISPMB covered the 150 Przewalski horses surviving in an uninhabitable area of northern Ukraine known as Chernobyl covering 2,800 square km. This exclusion zone was the site of the worst nuclear accident in the world's history when the nuclear power plant exploded in April of 1986.

To date, we have no more information about the welfare of these rare and endangered wild horses running free in this area. We do know that the good news for these animals is the power plant is again under the control of the Ukrainians who have the most knowledge on how to abate any further damage from the radiation.

We hope to have an update in our next newsletter.



# Yukon Wild Horses Survived Thousands of Years Longer Than Believed

The Yukon is one of three northern Canadian territories and is situated in the northwest corner of the continental mainland. It is just east of Alaska.

A recent paper published in the journal, Nature Communications, researchers from McMaster University, the University of Alberta, the American Museum of Natural History and the Yukon government presented a 30,000-year DNA record of past environments drawn from cored permafrost sediments extracted from the Klondike region of central Yukon.

The amazing analysis of the soil samples revealed that mammoths and horses were already in steep decline prior to the climatic instability at the end of the Pleistocene period. They did not disappear due to human overhunting as previously thought. The North American horse persisted until as recently as 5,000 years ago bringing them into the mid-Holocene period - the period we live in now.

It was thought that they died out at the end of the Pleistocene period, which was 11,000 to 14,000 years ago.

According to Ross MacPhee of the American Museum of Natural History and co-author of this paper, "The horse that lived in the Yukon 5,000 years ago is directly related to the horse species we have today, *Equus Caballus*. Biologically, this makes the horse a native North American mammal, and it should be treated as such."



## DO A FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER FOR ISPMB

A great opportunity to increase giving to **International Society for the Protection of Mustang and Burros** is with a Facebook Fundraiser.

Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/fund/ISPMB>

*Please note that ISPMB protects your name and address as we do not share or trade your personal information. If you prefer to receive an e-newsletter, send us your email address. E-newsletters will help save ISPMB money, which can be used to care for our horses.*

# SAFEGUARDING *their* FUTURE

A gift to the 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.



PHOTO: KAREN SUSSMAN

## **GIFT AN ACRE OF LAND - \$2,500**

Gifting an Acre of Land assures that our wild horses will be running free and assures your name will be inscribed on our donor wall as a founding member of the International Wild Horse and Burro Heritage CENTER.




## *Lasting Memories in Our Garden of Hope*

*We honor and cherish the memories of our donors who have remembered us in their wills. It is because of their dedication and commitment to our efforts to save the last of America's wild horses and burros that we will forever remember them in our Garden of Hope. We know this year has been especially hard on so many of our members due to the COVID virus. We wish everyone good health as we slowly climb out of this pandemic which has affected so many people's lives.*



- Lawrence Barton*
- .....
- Virginia McDonald*
- .....
- Clare Miles*
- .....
- Jeanette Spangler*

*Your donation will help ISPMB in our continuing efforts to save America's wild horses and burros.*



## Your Generosity Helps the Horses!

WE CAN PUT ANY SIZE DONATION TO WORK:

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

\*Feeds an average horse for approximately a month

\*\*Become a lifetime member of ISPMB