

ISPMB  
FALL  
2023  
NEWSLETTER

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs & Burros



*Spirit of the Ancients*

# 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*

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ISPMB HORSES CURIOUSLY WATCH  
AS THEY ARE PHOTOGRAPHED



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# What We Can Learn from Wild Horses Who Evolved on this Continent for Nearly 60 Million Years

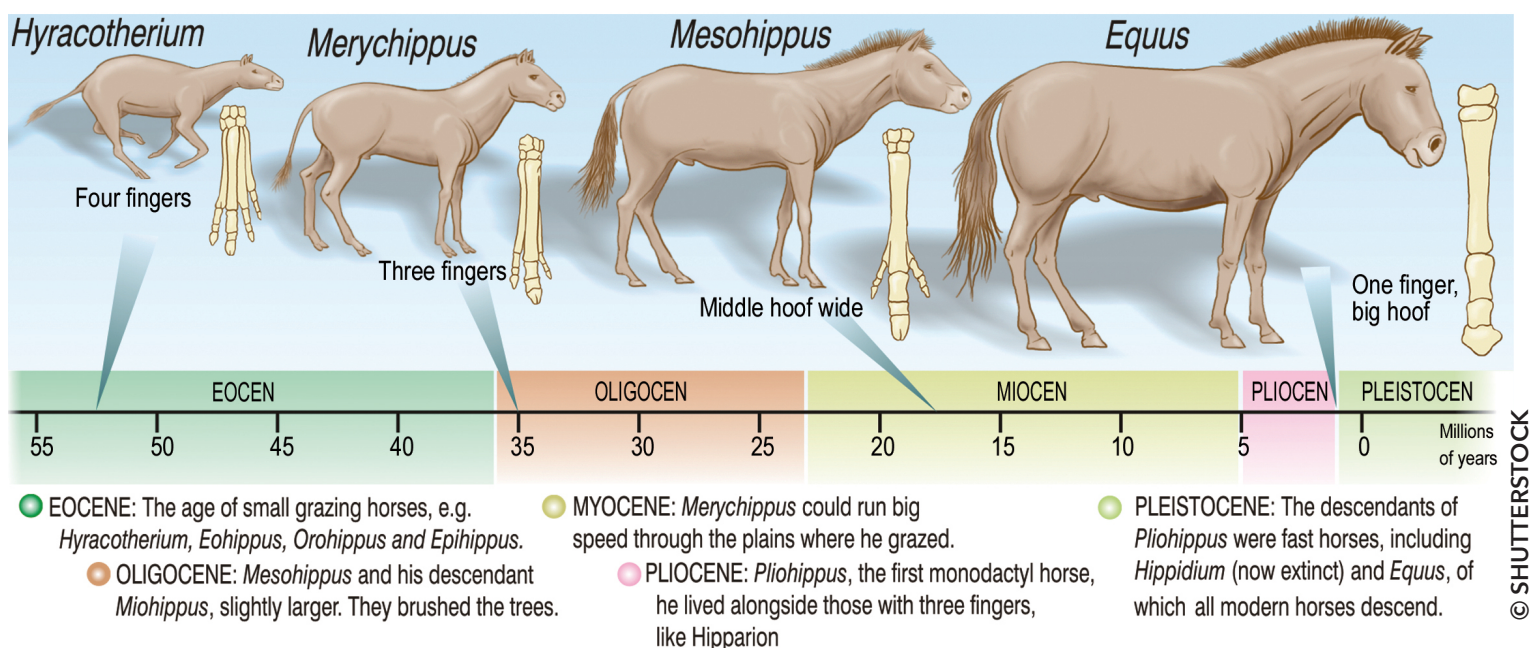
## *Why their survival should be studied*

Approximately 55 million years ago, the first wild horse known as *Eohippus* or “the Dawn Horse” was found in North America. This animal was about the size of a fox or small deer with a short head and neck and springy, arched back, weighing about 50 pounds. It was a vegetarian and had three toes in the front and four toes in the back.

From 46 to 38 million years ago came *Epihippus* that continued the evolutionary development of increasing the efficiency of grinding teeth.

Then comes *Merychippus*, looking more like modern day horse. This horse evolved from 15.9 to 5.3 million years ago. It had three toes in both front and back and is the first horse known to have grazed. Even though its name meant “ruminant,” it never was a ruminant animal. These animals lived in groups and were 35 inches tall.

From 10.3 to 3.6 million years ago, the *Dinohippus* evolved in North America. This horse developed a “stay apparatus” formed from bones and tendons to help it conserve energy while standing for long periods. Modern day horse only sleeps for four hours and they usually always stand. While it is thought that in this stage *Dinohippus* had developed a hoof from the middle toe, there was one specimen with three toes yet. Its approximate weight was 440 pounds. The Greek name means “terrible” horse. However, these animals did not exhibit any fierceness. Yet one could surmise they were evolving to be on this planet for some time. The horse outlived the Sabre-toothed Tigers and the Woolly Mammoths that existed during the time of *Eohippus* and became extinct 10,000 years ago during the Ice Age.



Finally comes Equus or modern-day horse, evolving for the last 4 to 4.5 million years. With the permafrost defrosting in the Yukon, studies have shown that modern day horse did not disappear 10,000 years ago from the North American continent as first thought, but rather survived until 5,000 years ago, bringing them into our current mid-Holocene period, the period we live in now. This horse measured 13 hands high (4 inches/hand).

Now you ask, why such a history lesson on the wild horse? With a species so adaptable why would the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service (Agencies) try to rid the American landscape of these “native” wildlife? Wouldn't they teach us much about sustainability? Shouldn't we be learning about survival while we face such environmental changes on earth and our human species is at risk? Wouldn't the wild horses hold the key to how our societies can adapt to changes? After all, they survived the Ice Age while many other mammals became extinct because they were strong societies with millions of years of time to continue their evolution and continue to work together as an entire unit.

## ISPMB GILA HERD GRAZING IN PEACE



We should NOT destroy a species that has been able to survive over millions of years. We should be finding out why they survive.

Working together as a community of horses or an entire unit is what ISPMB noted with its Gila Herd. This was critical evidence: undisturbed herds help each other regardless of what horse is in what band and they limit their own growth because of this stability. The Gila Herd was undisturbed for 50 years before they came to ISPMB. Their behaviors may be the most ancient of stable behaviors studied in our current time. These horses were not rounded up since 1936 when the mustanger retired. The horses were occasionally shot but this does not change behaviors like constant roundups do every four years, which America's wild horses endure by the Agencies.

The Agencies are destroying the very evolutionary fabric of these magnificent wild creatures. Creatures that we should be studying and learning everything about their survival techniques. Maybe one hint is that they restore our land by reseeding it and they do not overgraze their habitat as cattle do. They do not foul the waters as livestock. They treat our Mother Earth with respect and that is how they survived over these millions of years working together for the good of the whole. ■





# The Agencies Never Wanted Wild Horses and Burros Protected

Wild Horse Annie never wanted the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) (the Agencies) to manage the wild horses and burros. Her pick was the National Park Service (NPS) but it was denied because at that time the NPS only managed for native species. Today we can claim that they are reintroduced "native" species. In fact, some Native cultures believe that the horse never became extinct. As the permafrost continues to melt, maybe we will have fossil remains that finally prove this.

Regardless, these wild horses, reintroduced from Spain, have roamed our landscapes for 500-plus years. According to DNA findings, *Equus Caballus*, modern day horse, is the same DNA as *Equus Lambei* (the Ice Age horses). They are one in the same.

The term "feral" horse is still used by those people who denigrate wild horses and burros, including the Agencies. The 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act is explicit that they be called wild.

It was in 1990 that ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman, serving on the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board along with her colleagues, held many seminars with Agency personnel to teach them how to speak about our "heritage species" in a positive light. It is true that words carry great meaning. Soon we saw a transformation in their language but this did not last long. The adoption program was thriving then. ISPMB created many





programs at that time which the Agencies adopted. It appeared that maybe the Agencies were going to finally appreciate these protected species that so endeared the American public.

Not so. The culture of cattle grazing has been pervasive throughout the ages of the Agencies' inception. That is the culture most employees and high-ranking officials hailed from in the early years. We note that before BLM became the BLM, it was called the Grazing Service and was responsible for killing tens of thousands of wild horses in the 1930s. Today some permittees are government employees and/or related to permittees who run cattle. There appears to be no conflict of interest here when there really should be. Wild Horse Annie felt that these Agencies were like the "fox guarding the hen house." Her fears were manifested.

One of the most important signifiers showing this lack of protection of wild horses and burros came when the Agencies chose not to study wild horses as "wildlife species" as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) back in 1980-1982.

The NAS was called up through the passage of the Public Lands Improvement Act (PRIA). They were tasked with learning as much about wild horses and burros as was available at the time, both nationally and internationally. The NAS recommended a 5 to 10-year study to understand wild horse behaviors and how best to manage for them. A quote from NAS states, "A long-term equid research program and an expanded in-house scientific staff" was needed to provide a solid foundation of scientific data on which to base management decisions.

Arrogantly, the Agencies wrote to Congress in 1984 stating, *"The most pressing question concerning further research for the Agencies is whether the benefits of increased knowledge and efficiency will justify the costs."* Since then, they have managed them like domestic livestock and never saw the need to understand their wildlife behaviors.

It has cost them – and us. Since this time, the Agencies have spent millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars rounding up wild horses and burros unnecessarily and illegally and placing them in holding areas, taking away their rightful places on public lands, disobeying the law that protects them. They continue to get away with it. But we will never stop fighting to change that. ■

## GILA MARE AND FOAL



© KAREN SUSSMAN

## GILA STALLIONS SPARRING



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# Agencies' Management Causing Great Harm *to Social Structures of Wild Horses*

The Agencies' refusal to understand wild horses as wildlife species has led to a path of grave mismanagement of these wild animals. It could eventually lead to their demise. Since 1980, when the Agencies began a massive removal of wild horses and burros, the herds have had little time to stabilize. If the Agencies had studied wild horses and burros during a 10-year timeframe, as was suggested by NAS, they would have realized what ISPMB has realized through studying our wild herds. That is, stable band structures are equivalent to stable population growth.

The Agencies would have realized how important the stability of bands is not only to limited growth, but to the functioning of the herd as a unit protecting their future, as they did in their evolution over millions of years. (See *What We Can Learn from Wild Horses*, page 2.)

In the past 50 years, the constant disruption of these families every four years by roundups has created mares foaling at age two. This was not noted in any of the wild populations studied by NAS in 1980 except for one mare in the seven or so wild horse populations studied. This tells us that older, wiser, stallions in control of their family bands do not allow breeding of younger horses. This was noted in ISPMB's two herds too. Our herds were stable (free from roundups) for 25 to 50 years before coming to ISPMB.



*Since 1980, when the Agencies began a massive removal of wild horses and burros, the herds have had little time to stabilize.*



## A FOAL NURSES FROM ITS VERY YOUNG MOTHER



Foaling at two means the filly was impregnated at her first estrus at age one! ISPMB observed, in its Gila herd, a filly in her first estrus strutting up the hill to a band of bachelors. She left her natal band at the bottom of the hill. The bachelors were very happy to see her and would have bred her had it not been for a family band stallion at the top of the hill racing out of his band to discipline the filly. She went to the bottom of the hill but did not immediately return to her natal band. Another band stallion at the bottom of the hill disciplined her and sent her running to her natal band. This filly never got pregnant until she was four years old when we expect them to do so, foaling at age five.

The constant disruptions through roundups every four years have led to the population increases. This increase is NOT noted in the Heber wild horses of northern Arizona who have been stable for nearly 20 years or more. If not for a lawsuit by ISPMB, this information would have been lost. *(Please see Heber update.)*

The Agencies manage wild horses like domestic horses or livestock and this is wrong. It must stop and the only way it will stop is to make the Heber Herd a study herd. The government needs to fulfill its directive and do the study they never did in the very beginning of their task mandated by Congress and the American people: to protect and preserve wild horses and burros.

They have shunned their duties even today when they refuse to make the Heber Herd a study herd, again passing on the opportunity to manage wild horses as they were mandated to do by Congress. This refusal came to us from Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack's office in an official letter from him with his stamped signature on it. He could declare the Heber Herd a study herd through the 1971 Act but he refused. *(Please see Write your Congresspersons.)* ■



### 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>





HEBER HERD FAMILY

© BETTY NIXON

# Update on the Heber Herd

In our Spring newsletter we anticipated that the Forest Service would issue its selected analysis based on the previous environmental assessment given to the public by June. It has once again been put off until October. We see no signs of that date changing now.

In the Black Mountain Ranger District where the Heber horses live, the cattle permittees have not been adhering to the instructions on their permits, which state that cattle must be rotated throughout pastures. Instead, the cattle are grazing throughout the area without any rotation. Why are the rules continually bent in favor of cattle grazing there?

According to an analysis by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), wild horses have repeatedly been the scapegoat for the Agencies, allowing for the removal of wild horses to protect the Sage Grouse when, in fact, their own records indicate livestock grazing caused significant damage and threatened the Sage Grouse, not the horses.

It is apparent that this philosophy of scapegoating wild horses continues just as it did for the Alpine "wild" horses that were never declared wild and free-roaming. The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) claimed the horses were causing damage to the habitat where the endangered jumping mouse resided alongside the stream banks. We know that cattle camp in water and that wild horses come to water and then leave for the most part.

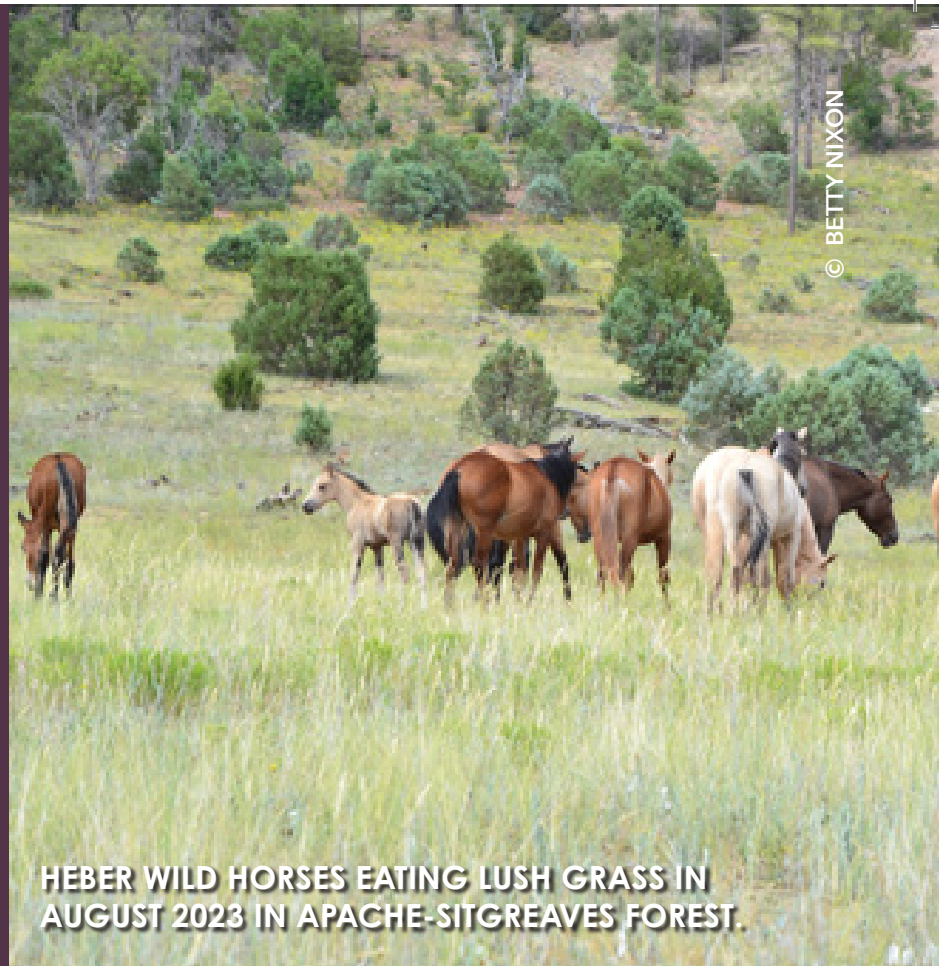
We know the Alpine horses were in the forest and remained so since well before 1860. Yet, the agreement between the FS and the CBD sealed the fate of these long-standing wild residents in the forest that bothered no one, except the ranchers and hunters who wanted more of the land for their species. The cattle eat all the grass they want, along with their calves, at a mere rate of \$1.35 per month. The hunters do not want to preserve their elk for the elk's sake. They want them available so they can shoot them. Did you know that you subsidize cattle grazing on public lands for a mere 1/2-billion dollars annually in taxes?

Now, the CBD is joining the FS in removing the Salt River "wild" horses in Phoenix.

The term "wild" does not apply to them because they were never declared wild in 1971, which makes them the target of elimination since they do not have protection of the 1971 Wild-Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act.



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**HEBER WILD HORSES EATING LUSH GRASS IN AUGUST 2023 IN APACHE-SITGREAVES FOREST.**

The CBD is doing the work and service of the FS both in the Tonto National Forest and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests. The CBD could have worked on what the problem is and that is the cattle.

For 30-plus years the Agencies have gotten away with marketing false information that wild horses multiply at 20 percent yearly and double every four years. Not so! The Heber Herd proves it. The Heber Herd's growth rate is less than 3 percent.

Why do Secretary Vilsack and the FS want to decrease the Heber population to less than viable numbers? This is the last herd on public lands that has not been rounded up in 20 years or maybe even longer. This is the last herd that can prove that, when left alone, wild horses are great at managing their own numbers because of stability of the band structures.

If we can make the Heber horses a study herd, it would transform how wild horses and burros are managed in our country. It would save taxpayers millions of dollars. Most importantly, it would preserve wild horses' natural behaviors, reinstitute only removing excess wild horses according to the law and save them from eventual extermination by preventing the use of birth control, which sterilizes wild horses in the long-term.

One can see the importance of protecting the Heber herd and preventing them from being rounded up. Please help support the Heber horses by again calling Secretary Vilsack and insisting that he declare the Heber Herd a study herd.

Ask your Congressperson to appropriate funding to study the Heber Herd. There is yet time to add it to the Appropriations package in Congress. It is never too late. ■



**PERMITTEE'S COW URINATES IN DRINKING WATER SHARED BY WILD HORSES AND WILDLIFE IN THE APACHE-SITGREAVES FOREST IN AUGUST 2023.**





# President's REPORT

## *Working Together*

By Karen A. Sussman

In the year 2000, I realized that the humane groups could not be united in the cause of taking on the Agencies to protect wild horses and burros. That year I realized that the only way we could win for the horses was to understand them as the wildlife species they really are.

That was the year that I packed up my bags and moved to South Dakota to study our first herd that we acquired in 1999. It also was the year that we saved the rare Spanish Gila Herd as we packed up their families and shipped them to South Dakota. It was not until just a month ago that I realized how truly important my studies were to all wild horses on public lands.

You see, unless speaking about birth control, very few studies exist about how wild horses actually behave in their herds. Yet, I have been gifted to live amongst them for 18-plus years. I do not know of anyone who has lived amongst their horses as I have done day in and day out. Almost no one has studied intact herds, never rounded up in 50 years of time, like we have done here at ISPMB. Fifty years of being left alone creates the most natural of wild horse behaviors.

I realize now more than ever what a gift that was handed to me and I never really realized what a gift it was until recently. It is my mission now to bring to the forefront how wild horses work together for the good of the entire herd. By working together as a unit, they limit their own growth. They fight off predators together. There is tremendous respect amongst the bands and the hierarchy of bands is greatly respected. There is no more time to delay as the future of all wild horses depends upon our studies. One of the most important points that we can show is the Agencies' computer modeling program determining growth is wrong and their current management is destroying our herds.

This mission is so vital that I will take the next several months committing each day to writing and recalling the most interesting behaviors I have witnessed. I will be reviewing all my numerous field notes and writing about the behaviors of our wild horses.

My countless experiences date back to my early years starting to ride horses at age four but it was when I adopted my first wild horse in 1981 that I experienced a transformation. Shooting Star is the one that spoke to me. She is the reason that I have committed my life to saving wild horses. In 1981, the horses' natural behaviors were still pure and not disrupted by massive roundups, although the gathers had begun. Her mind was genius and her every action in her body told me a story. She was a great communicator.

There is not one day that I regret my decision of commitment. I have worked tirelessly for wild horses without ever being

financially compensated. But who needs that because money cannot buy what I have experienced living with ISPMB's herds.

I am sure Jane Goodall feels the same way about living amongst the chimpanzees in Africa. This experience has led her to her quests now traveling and raising awareness worldwide about the chimpanzees.

I have lived every day of my adult life watching and learning about wild horse and herd behaviors. I have been accepted by the herds. They have gained trust with me and I could help them in any way possible because they allow it. The trust factor among wild horses is very strong but do not ever break that trust.

I noted that early on in the adoption program how wild horses were mishandled by the Agencies and certain adopters. I learned this in our first program, a rescue program we ran in Arizona. It was an eye-opening experience. There are so many behavior stories just in that program alone. Especially how long it would take a horse to trust a human again. Yes, they do. But you must give them time and respect. No one has the time but I certainly did. One horse, it took nearly 10 years or more until he trusted me. This was a horse that was beaten for reacting as a wild horse. He was tied up and Scotch hobbled. When he lashed out with his front leg after being restrained (fight or flight), the handler beat the horse with a wooden 2x4 to the inch of his life.

There will be a lot to write about because who really understands wild horse behaviors? I bet not many. I have been blessed and I have been focused, and now it is time to share that blessing and knowledge. I hope it is in time to save the last of America's wild horses!

With that said, I do hope you will support ISPMB and our efforts. May I be so bold to ask you to consider donating monthly to ISPMB for the rest of this year to assist us financially? We still are paying an inordinate amount of money to support our Gila Herd. And we have not taken our eye off the creation of our CENTER in South Dakota.

Your support is vital in keeping wild horses free from the eventual extermination that they now face, whether it is from continual roundups or poisoning them with birth control. Let's keep working together! TOGETHER, we can save the last of America's wild horses. ■

Karen A. Sussman  
President, ISPMB





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GUEST ARTICLE

# Junk Food Non-Profits: *Their Empty Promises Fail to Deliver* By Staci-lee Sherwood

Staci-lee Sherwood has done extensive investigation into many of the following proponents of PZP. This listing (updated Nov. 2, 2022) was originally printed as part of her piece in "RealityCheckswithStaciLee." <https://www.realitycheckswithstacilee.com/post/junk-food-non-profits-their-empty-promises-fail-to-deliver>

- Alliance of Wild Horse Advocates
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ASPCA
- American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign AWHC - Suzanne Roy
- Animal Legal Defense Fund ALDF
- Animals Voice
- Animal Wellness Action AWA - Wayne Pacelle/Marty Irby/Scott Beckstead
- Animal Welfare Institute
- Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary
- CANA Foundation - Manda Kalimian
- Center for Animal Protection and Education
- Center for Humane education - Wayne Pacelle/Marty Irby/Scott Beckstead
- Citizens Against Equine Slaughter CAES - Patience O'Dowd
- The Cloud Foundation - Ginger Kathrens
- Corolla Wild Horse Fund
- Friends of the Mustangs 8/28/19
- Fish Springs Wild Horse Alliance
- Freedom Rocks
- Friends of a Legacy
- Front Range Equine Rescue
- Habitat for Horses

(...continued)





- Hidden Valley Wild Horse Protection Fund
- Horses for Life Foundation
- Humane Society of the United States HSUS
- In Defense of Animals 9/28/19 IDA
- Jicarilla Mustang Heritage Alliance
- Lady Freethinker
- Least Resistance Training Concepts
- Lifesavers Wild Horse Rescue
- Lucky Three Ranch 9/12/19
- Montgomery Creek Ranch
- Mustang Heritage Foundation - money from BLM
- National Mustang Association, Colorado Chapter
- Nevada Wild and Free (AWHC) 8/28/19
- Onaqui Catalogue 8/28/19
- Onaqui Wild Horse Alliance 8/28/19
- Oregon Wild Horse & Burro Association
- Pegasus Equine Guardian Association
- Piceance Mustangs - Cindy Wright & Aletha Dove
- Photographers for the Preservation of Wild Horses and Burros
- Pine Nut Wild Horse Advocates
- Respect 4 Horses
- Return to Freedom Wild Horse Sanctuary and Preservation RTF - Neda DeMayo
- Salt River Wild Horse Management Group
- Save the Onaqui (Salt River and AWHC) 8/28/19
- Serengeti Foundation
- Southern Sun Farm Sanctuary
- Steadfast Steeds
- SWAT Sand Wash Advo Team - Stella Trueblood
- The American-Canadian Horse Warrior Forum 7/29/19

- The Horse Nation 9/18/19
- United Horse Coalition partnered with SPCA
- Veterans for Mustangs - Cameron Ring
- Virginia Range Wildlife Protection Association - AWHC
- Wild Equid League (Colorado)
- Wild Horses of America Foundation
- Wild Horse Connection Reno Nevada
- Wild Horse Conservation 8/4/19
- Wild Horse Education WHE - Laura Leigh
- Wild Horse Observers Association WHOA - Patience O'Dowd
- Wild Horse Protection Act 12/25/19
- Wild Horse Preservation League
- Wild Horse Warriors of Sand Wash Basin 8/6/19 - Cindy Wright & Aletha Dove
- Wild Mustangs Forever 8/28/19
- Wyoming Wild Horse Improvement Partnership 8/26/19
- Warriors & Ranchers for Wolves & Wild Horses World News 11/21/19

ISPMB is grateful to share a list of non-profits that support birth control, which will eventually exterminate wild horses and burros from the American landscape.

**Staci-lee Sherwood** grew up in New York and spent years as an animal and environmental advocate and lobbyist, working with state officials on projects concerning water safety, land use and wildlife conservation. Since the 1990s she has been an advocate for wolf conservation and since 2010 she has been an advocate for preserving America's wild horses. She spent 11 years working in the field in Florida saving sea turtles. Of the many projects she has worked on over the years, three species are of special concern and closest to her heart. She believes we must do everything to save these them. ■

## NATIONAL NEWS

# ISPMB's Attorneys Respond to Livestock Allotment Scoping

Currently, the wild horses in the Lakeside Ranger District in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests are protected under the stipulation entered into by the FS and ISPMB in 2006. The stipulation states that no wild horses in either ranger district, Lakeside or Black Mesa, can be removed until the FS creates a Territory plan.

We expect that plan to be released in October. The horses in the Lakeside District were not even acknowledged in this scoping report. ■

## HEBER WILD HORSES







## Senate Approves \$148 Million for Wild Horse and Burro Management for 2024

This appropriation is a record for the Agencies' Wild Horse and Burro program. What it really does is give \$11 million dollars to implement birth control. The rest will *not* go toward studying the habitat yet the Agencies are on target to illegally reduce the population of wild horses and burros to an approximate 26,000 animals in the 10 western states that they reside.

If the Heber Herd was studied and management transformed to where the animals do not need birth control or removals, this money could go toward monitoring the habitat and determining which animal is causing damage. We know livestock cause a lot of damage but wild horses and burros take the blame for the damage without any proof.

We are at a critical point in history because the climate is changing. Whether you think it is manmade or a natural phenomenon, it is happening! There will be a fight for the last blade of grass. This is why the Heber horses must be studied. The Heber horses will show their limited growth because they have not been rounded up for 18 years and it will show wild horses do not overgraze their habitat generally.

Please write to your Congresspeople and ask that the Heber Herd be studied as they can transform the management for all wild horses. They will further reduce the amount of money needed by the Agencies to remove wild horses and add millions to actually studying the habitat if the Agencies so choose to do.

To find your Congressperson go to: [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) ■

## Chris Stewart Resigns from Congress

The 6-term Utah Republican has resigned from Congress this year due to his wife's illness. One of the most aggressive wild horse enemies that we have seen in years is gone. He was responsible for the Path Forward that many humane groups joined in during a private meeting held on August 1, 2018 in Utah, which resulted in the groups agreeing to reduce wild horse populations and achieve appropriate management level quickly through gathers (*which is illegal*). There was a return favor, that birth control would be used on remaining wild horses. The following groups were involved: Return to Freedom, ASPCA, HSUS and American Mustang Foundation. ■



# Low-Carbon Beef is an Oxymoron that Some Say Should Not Be Used in Labeling

*From Food Safety News  
by Dan Flynn*



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Scott Faber, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs, and Kalena Wojtala, a J.D. candidate at Vermont Law School and an intern working for the Environmental Working Group (EWG), have filed the latest petition with USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

In the petition filed on April 27, the EWG requests that the USDA agency:

- Prohibit the "Low-Carbon Beef" claim recently approved by USDA.
- Require third-party verification for similar carbon claims.
- Require a numerical on-pack carbon disclosure when such claims are made.

The EWG is a non-governmental organization that presents itself as a public interest, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with offices in Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Sacramento and Minneapolis.

In their opening, Faber and Wojtala make the following arguments:

"Consumers are increasingly seeking to use their buying power to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Misleading climate claims, including the 'Low-Carbon Beef' claim recently approved by the USDA, undermine these efforts by confusing consumers. Many of these claims are not verified by independent, qualified third parties, and experts agree that USDA lacks reliable measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification protocols.

"To address misleading climate claims, we urge USDA to reject misleading claims, such as the agency's Low-Carbon Beef claim, and to modernize USDA's verification system for climate claims to require independent third-party verification of claims. We urge USDA to require a numerical carbon disclosure whenever such claims are made.

"Allowing misleading climate claims, including USDA's Low-Carbon Beef claim, or allowing climate claims without sufficient verification and an accompanying numerical carbon disclosure, violates federal laws which prohibit false and misleading claims."

The pair claims any "low carbon" beef claims are "inherently misleading."

"There is no such thing as 'Low-Carbon Beef.' In fact, no food choice results in more greenhouse gas emissions than choosing beef," the petition says. "However, many consumers viewing the Low-Carbon Beef label approved by USDA are likely to assume that beef bearing such a label will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

They further claim that "even the beef which meets the 'Low-Carbon' beef standard approved by USDA still results in more greenhouse gas emissions than any other food choice, including any other meat or poultry choice. Making matters worse, beef meeting USDA's 'Low-Carbon' beef standard would still result in more emissions than much of the beef produced elsewhere in the U.S. or Canada. By any measure, choosing beef is a bad choice for the climate. Per gram of protein, beef production results in approximately nine times more greenhouse gas emissions than poultry, six-and-a-half times more than pork, and 25 times more than soybeans."

Other labels popping up that EWG also dislikes include: Net-Zero, Carbon Neutral, Carbon Negative, Climate Neutral, Net-Zero Carbon, Climate Positive, Climate Neutral, and Carbon Positive. It says, "Many of these claims are already appearing on products subject to USDA regulation. . ."

FSIS has referred the petition to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review and has been assigned petition number 23-04. Numerous companies already making carbon claims on their labels will likely follow this outcome. ■



# Wyoming Continues Its Assault On Wild Horses

If BLM gets its way, 32 percent of Wyoming's horse population could be removed in 2023. This constitutes 2,600 wild horses near Lander and McCullough Peaks (where horses have received birth control).

The good news is, even though these areas are the second- and third-highest priority horse roundups in the nation, funding has not been secured to do them.

Wyoming has long been an enemy of wild horses. It was here in 1992 that a decision to stop the roundups until the BLM could monitor its habitat to determine excess was denied by the Interior Board of Land Appeals. This was after three previous years where IBLA stopped all roundups that had been appealed. (The Animal Protection Institute was responsible for winning the IBLA appeals from 1989 onward.) Why should Wyoming be any different?

It made sense that every appeal was the same and API should have won this appeal in Wyoming. The woman responsible for this was Nancy Whitaker. She confided in ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman, that an insider told her she would lose this appeal. This meant that API would have to go to federal court to continue to win. At that time, it was only \$10,000 dollars compared to \$100,000 currently. API did not go to court and since that time the Agencies have recklessly instituted a range of Appropriate Management Levels (AMLs), which are illegal.

Yet, there was hope in Wyoming when the resolution to kill wild horses died in the state committee recently. Although, the states have no control over federal laws. ■



## Lone Star Tick— What You Should Know

The Lone Star tick is located mainly in the southeastern and eastern U.S. With warming temperatures, it is on a march northward. What is interesting about this tick is it can lead to Alpha-gal Syndrome in human beings.

Humans do not produce Alpha-gal and when bitten by the tick may produce an allergy antibody to alpha gal making them allergic to beef, which contains alpha-gal. The allergic reaction takes 3 to 6 hours after eating red meat. Given the delayed reaction, this allergy is often missed.

It is estimated that 450,000 people in the U.S. have this allergy from this tick. However, reported cases are far fewer. Allergists are now becoming aware and keeping their eyes out for this somewhat new disease. ■



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# Teddy Roosevelt National Park Horses *Still Threatened with Elimination*

Sadly, there is no real progress in the Teddy Roosevelt National Park where Gonacon is sterilizing mares, as we wrote in our previous newsletter. The horses are still scheduled for removal. Yet advocates for birth control are not being open about the use of Gonacon on these horses that are not protected under the 1971 Act. The BLM and NPS continue to be uncooperative about sending these mares to Colorado State University to study and determine why they are not getting pregnant after their second Gonacon shot.

We will keep you updated if there is any progress. ■



## The State of Nevada *Votes Against Wild Horses*

Nevada state horse bill put down – Despite pleas from adorable fourth grade students and support from scores of “wild and free” Nevadans, state lawmakers unceremoniously killed measure SB90 that would have established the wild mustang as Nevada’s official state horse. Despite passing out of the Senate on an **18-3 vote** in April, the measure failed in the wake of tension over land management concerns and the degradation of habitat caused by wild horses.

Of course, ISPMB knows that degradation is not happening by wild horses. ■





# Public Lands Conservation Rule Fails

On June 18th, ISPMB requested our e-mail subscribers to respond to the new BLM rule making, which would have added “conservation” to one of the Multiple Uses on Public Lands. While generally this is a great idea, how it would have been implemented had many flaws that we would have liked changed.

BLM’s new rule would have put conservation on an equal footing with other multiple uses of public lands. It allows land to be leased for conservation alongside grazing, drilling, mining and even more extractive uses of public lands. No valid existing rights to use BLM lands for these purposes will be affected. The rule sought to correct a system that has been wildly imbalanced:

- 90% of BLM land is open to drilling;
- 60% are leased for grazing
- Only 14% are managed for conservation.

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) released the following in their press release:

*The U.S. BLM’s ambitious proposed Conservation and Landscape Health Rule has laudatory goals but is wholly unworkable given BLM’s current organizational capacity.*

*Such an undertaking would require a level of regulatory sophistication that BLM has yet to exhibit. (This was ISPMB’s*

concern because the BLM must monitor the habitat and determine who is causing damage according to the 1971 law and for 50 years that have not done so. And they wanted to farm out this conservation program, which we were against because it is the duty of the “land managers” to protect the lands.)

*Despite the clear emphasis on conservation as a priority, BLM has not explained why it cannot simply begin to enforce conservation values under its existing regulations. Moreover, the Rule relies on BLM extending the land health standards it now uses to assess grazing to all of its lands.*

- *It rarely requires allotments with failing grades to take steps to improve landscape health. Thus, it seems imprudent to double down on such a dysfunctional system:*
- *Overlooks BLM’s woeful understaffing to adequately perform its current functions, let alone handle greatly enhanced analytic tasks of managing on a landscape-scale; (ISPMB was told early in the 1980s by a BLM informant that the purpose to being understaffed was so they could overlook overgrazing and the damage to the habitat by livestock.)*
- *Would allow oil and mining interests to lease vacant land as an “offset” against adverse climate and other damage they are wreaking on their original holdings. ■*





# *The Safe Act May Not Be Safe for Horses*

The SAFE Act, which is proposed annually but never passes, was introduced as an amendment to the 2023 Farm Bill, which is expected to pass in September. It is H.R.3475 and S.2037.

- The SAFE Act will reinstate the domestic slaughter of horses in the U.S. because it only prohibits the slaughter and export of horses for human consumption. It does not include slaughter for animal consumption.
- It will allow Native American tribes to legally slaughter horses in “custom” slaughterhouses built on their reservations for animal food and could potentially legally allow them to dispose of feral and wild horses on their lands.
- There is no language stopping the transport of horses to Mexico and Canada under the pretense that they are being slaughtered for zoo or animal food.

Please contact your Congressional people to oppose the SAFE Act as it is written. ■





# Take ACTION

## *Save the Heber Herd*

### TAKE ACTION ON THE HEBER HERD

#### PLEASE WRITE TO SECRETARY VILSACK

Address your letter to:

The Honorable Secretary Tom Vilsack,  
1400 Independence Ave. S.W. Ste 200A  
Washington, D.C. 20250 or call 202-720-3631



1. We are asking that you declare the Heber herd in northern Arizona in the Apache-Sitgreaves Forest a "study" herd with your authority in Section 10 of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.
2. The National Academy of Sciences recommended a 7 to 10-year study in 1980-1982 to understand the behaviors of these wild horses and burros.
3. Your Agency, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, decided not to do this study and stated the following in 1984: "The most pressing question concerning future research for the Agencies is whether the benefits of increased knowledge and efficiency will justify the costs."
4. The Heber herd has cost the Forest Service very little over the past 18 years and the herd remains stable and intact. This herd is doing a great job at reseeding the forest after the big fire in 2002.
  - There were 300-400 wild horses in 2005; and in 2021, there were only 414 horses, which is less than a 3% growth.
  - According to your Agencies' miscalculated data of a 20% annual growth that they use, there now should be 4,800 wild horses in the forest.
5. The yearly costs of removing wild horses from their rightful land, separating them from their families, and storing them in privately-owned pastures have cost taxpayers \$77 million dollars annually. Certainly, the study that should have been done in 1982 and

onward would have saved taxpayers millions and millions of dollars and would have saved the herds.

6. Finally, is this not the administration that believes in science guiding your decisions? Then this study will TRANSFORM how wild horses should be managed.

In writing or calling, you are taking action that might just save these magnificent forest horses. And remember, there is power in numbers.

#### PLEASE WRITE TO YOUR CONGRESSPEOPLE

1. Ask that Congress appropriate funding to study the Heber herd residing in the Apache-Sitgreaves Forest in northern Arizona.
2. State that this study must be done, not by the FS or the BLM, but by independent scientists who are well-versed in wild horse ecology and behaviors of equids from around the world.
3. Ask that there is a moratorium on removals to allow the band structures within the herds to stabilize once again.
4. Demand that the Agencies stop using birth control of any kind, which permanently sterilizes horses within three consecutive years of use.
5. Repeat points 2-6 in the above-mentioned letter to Secretary Vilsack. ■



# Przewalski's Horses to Roam Kazakh Steppe Once Again

The last truly wild horses on earth are expected to return to the Kazakh steppe after a memorandum of cooperation was signed between Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Kazakh Ministry of Ecology, Geology, and Natural Resources and the Prague Zoo.

Altyn-Emel and Kilsai Kolderi nation parks and Altyn Dala state nature reserve were identified as potential areas for the reintroduction of the horses during a preliminary study last December. The Altyn Dala regions were preferred, according to zoo officials.

The horses originally were spotted in the 1880s by the Russian officer for whom the horses are named, Przewalski, in north Kazakhstan and surrounding territories of Mongolia and China.

Due to inbreeding because of such a limited population, the horses had stillbirths and other anomalies. The Prague Zoo has a very successful history of reintroducing Przewalski's horses in Mongolia in the past few decades. ■







## Safeguarding their Future *through our Members' Lasting Memories* in our Garden of Hope



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**We remember our members  
who have passed.**

***Bobbi Royle,  
Wild Horse Spirit co-founder***

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.

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

Giftng 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.



# 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)



# ***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.**



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## **We Protect Your Privacy**

We do not sell or trade your name to  
anyone. This has been ISPMB's practice  
since our inception.





# *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 mare and foal for a year*

*\$1,000 ..... Sponsor a band for a year*

*\$5,000 .... Sponsor a herd for a year*

*\$50,000 ... Feed Gila herd for a year\*\**

*\*Feeds an average horse for approximately a month*

*\*\*Become a lifetime member of ISPMB*



ISPMB's Gila herd

Layout | Design | Print



The Market  
Builder, Inc.

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