

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros



50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

WWW.ISPMB.ORG

SAVING THE GILA WILD HORSES Deadline November 1st

By Karen Sussman



With winter fast approaching, we need donations to purchase 600 bales of hay for our rare Spanish Herd which resides on 500 acres on native habitat. *We must have the hay in place no later than November 1st when we know the snow will be flying in South Dakota.*

Last year, we suffered one of the coldest winters in over ten years. We had three blizzards which created mounds of snow that came up to the roofs of our barns and home. We have to drive

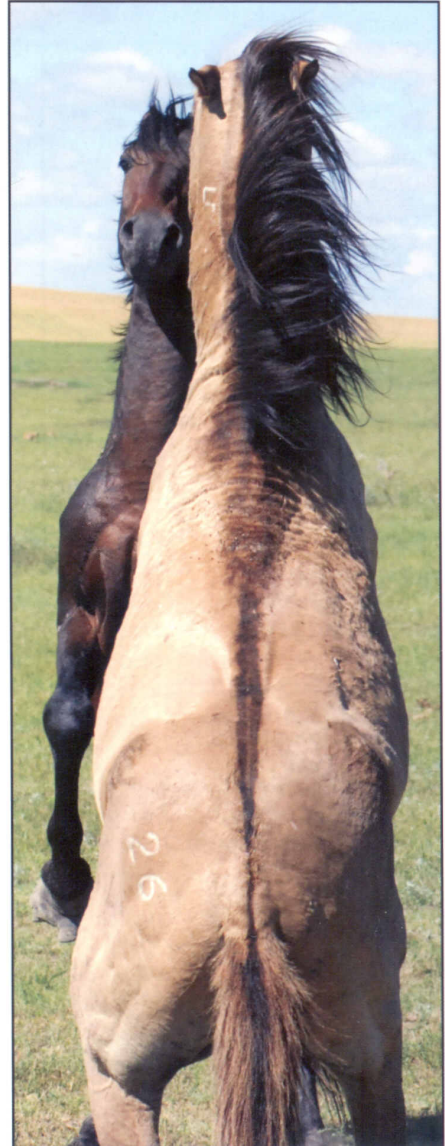
a mile down dirt roads just to get to our Gila pasture. With the continual blizzard conditions, our little tractor had to plow the roads to feed the horses every four days. Sometimes, it took several hours before we even arrived at their location. When spring hit last year, the gates to the hay yard were opened to assure the horses would have feed if we couldn't get to them. When our gumbo soil gets wet, we can't move until it dries. Luckily the gate was open when we experienced flooding for three weeks. The water covered the pasture where water never ran before! Seeing the amount of water was a shock as it was flowing rapidly and we weren't able to cross the makeshift river which was three feet deep. Determined to see the Gila Herd, I found an ice bridge spanning across the torrent of water. I was three feet onto the bridge when it snapped and gave way. The water was numbing and a shock to the system. Thank goodness Shawn, our ranch manager, was there to pull me out. It was another week before we could actually cross. We were fortunate to have enough hay to last through all of May until weather conditions lifted. Through all of the blizzards and flooding, we never lost any of our Gila horses.

On June 16th, our pasture suffered from several tornadoes that touched down. The horses again were fine but their North wall made of steel, crumbled. We were spared as it never hit the barn. Although the horses don't have access to the barn, it acts as a big wind break for them in the winter. Many of our beautiful trees were toppled by the high winds.

You can see how important it is that we get our hay supplies in since the semi-trucks cannot get down the road once snow or rain flies. We will need another 600 bales weighing 1400 pounds. The cost will be \$65.00 per ton. A bale of hay can range from \$35 to \$45 each depending upon its weight.

I hope you will help us save this rare herd. You can read about them in our Featured Herd article.

Gila Stallions





International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros

Council Circle

Karen A. Sussman, *President*
Jody Marriott, *Vice President*
Cheryl Rowe, *Secretary*
Anita Soper, *Treasurer*
Michael Blake
Heather Collins
Dr. Steve Heitzeg, Ph. D.
Chief Arvol Looking Horse
(Keeper of the Sacred Buffalo Calf Pipe)
Monica M. Terkildsen,
Tribal Relations Coordinator
Dr. Scott Toppin, DVM

Celebrity Honorary Advisory Council

Stefanie Powers
John Abernathy
Lacy J. Dalton
Ariana Richards

Honorary Advisory Council

Dave Archambault
Dr. E. Gus Cothran
Tiokasin Ghost Horse
Darla Jean Hueske
Jaime Jackson
A. Gay Kingman
Margaret Mackichan
Edith Mayo
Ed McGaa
Liz Gray
Chief Jim Gray
Don Moccasin
Richard Moves Camp
Karen O'Toole
Wanda Blackwood Scott
Karen Walsh
Dr. Rosemary Webb, Ph.D.
Alex White Plume
Mary Ann Simond,
Research Director

Cell 605.365.6991
ispmb@lakotanetwork.com
www.ispmb.org
tax id 94-616-9422
PO Box 55
Lantry, SD 57636-0055

ISPMB'S WILD HERDS NEED YOU! WINTER SUPPLY OF HAY MUST BE PURCHASED SOON

If each of our members who receive this newsletter could commit to \$35, we would have enough hay for the next six months. Our horses would be safe from the frigid temps and deep snow as long as hay is in front of them!

Just so you know, we at ISPMB have already committed to the horses. Except for one paid employee, our ranch manager, we operate ISPMB on a volunteer basis. We have made every attempt to make sure funding is available for our wild horses. 95% of all funding last year went to our wild horses. There are very few organizations that could make this claim and who have been in existence for 50 years.

We are truly dedicated to the future of America's wild horses and burros. I hope you will help us keep our Conservation program going forward. The results of our studies may be the only hope to save our wild horses on public lands. I would hate to think what would happen if we don't get our hay supply- not only for our wild horses but for all of America's wild horses.

Please help us with any size donation. Our goal is 3,000 bales! The cost is approximately \$35 per bale. From the Virginia Range wild horses, the White Sands herd, the Catnip herd and the Gila herd, we all thank you!

SPONSOR A WILD HORSE AND SAVE A LIFE

ISPMB has a wonderful sponsorship program that helps us keep feed on the table for our four wild herds. We thank the following people for their sponsorships over the past year.

If you do not see your name listed and you sponsored a horse, please contact our office and we will make sure that your name is listed. *We apologize if we have forgotten anyone!*

Sponsors

\$150 – Sponsor a Horse:

Carol Allegretti
Ellen Barrios(2)
Donna Brewer (2)
Cynthia Bronaugh
Lisbeth Cooper
Anvilla Cunningham
Laura Farver
Jane Farwell
Robert Furtado
Evelyn Gardy
Global Network Productions
Betty Gould
Paula Harris
Nan Hayek
Shelley John
Rosalie Kimberlin
Carol Lushear
Delores Petersen
Gladys Rankin
Randolph Richardson
Dr. Scott Robertson
Jacqueline Schools
Mia Sefeldt
Esther-Grace Simson
Frances Smith
Dr. Amy Sussman
Audrey Thomas

Anne Thornhill
Gwen Trube
Terry Turner
Frank Vitamante

\$1,000 - Sponsor a Band

Barbara Warner
Anita Soper (2)
Marcella Bodner (3)

\$500 – Sponsor and Orphan Foal

Dr. Ann Marini
Judith Osborne
Anita Soper

\$5,000 – Sponsor a Herd

Dr. Jim Adelman
Dr. Julia Bailey
Gayla and Roger Nelson
Dr. Cassandra Nunez
Polly and Brad Shaffer

\$250 – Gift an Acre

Betty Gould
Catherine Grider
Sara Hammer
Conrad Horn
Bette and Russell Lawson
Laura Lubin
Dr. Scott Robertson

If we inadvertently missed your name, please contact our office so we can make a correction

ISPMB APPOINTS POLLY SHAFFER TO THE COUNCIL CIRCLE

ISPMB is pleased to announce the appointment of Polly Shaffer to our Council Circle at our annual meeting held on July 24th in Lantry. Ms. Shaffer has served on a variety of capacities over her near thirty year career in commercial, not for profit, and government sectors. As a senior executive she has led broad cross community teams, managed budgets in the 100's of millions of dollars, and effectively led diverse workforces. She loves horses and competes nationally in team penning with her horses. She and her husband, Brad, reside in Virginia.

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPT LOBBY TO KILL HEALTHY EXCESS WILD HORSES AND BURROS

Although AZ is a neighboring state of NM, the Game and Fish Dept are unrelenting in their push to open for debate with the BLM, killing of healthy wild horses and burros no longer protected under the Burns amendment along with any excess un-adopted animals.

It is truly amazing that wild burros and bighorn sheep can live together peacefully in the Black Mountains of Arizona. It is only humankind who cannot come to terms living in a bio-diverse environment. The example in hand is the Black Mountain Eco Team who worked tirelessly for five years bringing opposing parties together finding a peaceful solution to the burro-bighorn conflict and which the AZ Game and Fish Dept were a party to along with ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman. The team received the prestigious "Health of the Land Award" from the Department of the Interior in 1996. Monitoring studies were picked out by

the team and reductions of animals were to be carried out if there were grazing impacts. After one year of grazing studies, the prized lambing grounds for Big Horn sheep sustained 80% utilization and by rights, ewes should have been removed to improve the area. In an undemocratic decision, the study was thrown out and the area was considered a "sacrifice" area benefiting the supporters of the Big Horn Sheep which included the AZ G&F Dept. So can we say that the AZG&F are really concerned about habitat protection? Or can we say there is species prejudice on going here.

According to Sussman, this move by the BLM and Game and Fish dept, rendered the five years of collaborative work by the team as useless. Asked to join another team regarding the Cerbat wild horses, Sussman refused because of the improper and underhanded scheme that played out in the Black Mountain Eco-team.

WILD HORSE REMOVALS CONTINUE IN SPITE OF APPEALS AND PUBLIC OUTCRY HEALTHY EXCESS WILD HORSES AND BURROS

More than 12,000 wild horses are slated for capture this year by the Bureau of Land Management. Some herd areas will be left with less than viable numbers of animals. BLM is unable to prove that the wild horses are causing damage to the ecosystem. With less than 3% of the BLM's budget going to monitoring and inventorying of the landscape, it is impossible to have conclusive monitoring studies that are reliable. By law, this is the only legal way to remove wild horses and burros from their habitat – actually proving they are causing damage to the ecosystem. In the majority of areas, this is not happening.

Under the pretense of emergency removals, BLM continues to eliminate wild horses and burros from their rightful lands instead

of removing cattle that can easily come and go on public lands. Once wild horses are removed, their gene pool is lost forever.

We see no difference between administrations in carrying out the letter of the law. Wild horse and burro removals continue at breakneck speed. The law is disregarded.

Please write your Congress persons and demand that a moratorium be imposed on any more removals of wild horses and burros. We have less than half the number of wild horses and burros then when the 1971 law was enacted, stating that "wild horses and burros were fast disappearing from the American scene."

GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON- AN ADVOCATE FOR WILD HORSES IN HIS STATE OF NM

On September 16th, Governor Bill Richardson announced the acquisition of the Ortiz Mountain Ranch consisting of 12,000 acres to create a wild horse sanctuary. In a letter to Energy Secretary, Jim Noel, the governor also has asked that the wild horses of Placitas located north of the Sandia Mountains, be preserved and protected where they exist.

We applaud Governor Richardson for his support of the wild horses of New Mexico. If only other states would take his lead in the preservation and protection of these last living symbols of the American West.

SALAZAR PLAN FINALIZED

On June 14th, the BLM held a workshop in Denver, Colorado pertaining to the seven points of the Salazar plan. There were nearly 100 people, mainly wild horse advocates. However, about 15 people from the opposition were represented, including Sue Wallis from United Horseman's Front, an organization that advocates for horse slaughter in the United States. Ms. Wallis is a state representative in Wyoming's district 52 in Campbell Co.

ISPMB responded to BLM's plan and then abbreviated a response that was sent by E-mail news. (If you do not receive our E-newsletters, please respond with your E-mail address to our office.)

Out of seven topics, only one centered on the management of the animals on public lands. The other six points covered horses and burros after they were removed from the land with the possible exception of point seven, "science." Participants were given only two minutes to speak and the format had to be in question form.

One concern in creating more preserves is that horses have bonded in the short and long term holding areas and their bonding relationships

should NOT be disrupted through moving – unless they are all moved together. They have already lost their families when removed from public lands. They should not be disrupted from their pasture mates now.

The following response to the plan was sent by E-mail to our members so they could respond:

BLM received approximately 9,000 comments to the plan. The plan had a 90 day comment period beginning on June 3rd. BLM is currently analyzing all the comments. A detailed analysis will be available to the public by October 15 at www.blm.gov. There will be a thirty day review and comment period about mid-December according to Sally Spencer of the BLM. The final proposed strategy will be presented in a report to Congress in late March 2011.

ISPMB will keep you abreast of our proposed comments when it is up for review.

If you would like a copy of our response to the Salazar Plan please contact our office.

THE GILAS ~ A RARE SPANISH HERD

OUR FEATURED HERD

By KAREN SUSSMAN



How exciting it was to find this rare herd in 1996. ISPMB received notification that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would be removing approximately 75 "feral" horses from public lands near Gila Bend, Arizona bringing them to the livestock auction which meant "sale for slaughter."

Of course this piqued my interest since I had never known that these horses existed in Arizona. They were located about 60 miles from my home in Scottsdale, AZ. Beginning in January through the end of March in 1996, I made weekly visits with my tape recorder to interview all of the ranchers in that area gathering information about the horses via tape recorder. The oldest rancher that I interviewed told me that wild horses were there when he arrived in AZ in 1916.

The horses were located north of the Gila River. President Teddy Roosevelt had a hand in saving them without his ever knowing. He encouraged the planting of salt cedar (tamarisk) along the Gila River. Not native to the U.S., the tamarisk grew to be nine feet tall within just a year. The horses hid in this vegetation by day because the local ranchers shot them as pests or nuisances. The ranchers grew alfalfa in this 120 degree desert terrain which was irrigated by the Gila River. The Painted Rock dam, located nearby, was now a Super Fund cleanup project which was to cost millions of dollars. The dam receives run off from the river which was filled with all the chemicals and nitrogen from the irrigated fields. It was so toxic that boats were not allowed out on the dam. It is this area where burros have a declared herd area by the 1971 law known as Painted Rock.

The 76 year old son of the local "mustanger," Mr. Hocker, told us that his father removed as many as 20,000 wild horses just on his motorcycle. He quit in 1936 as there were so few horses left. He agreed that riding a motorcycle, his father would not be able to get to these Gila horses. Thank goodness they were saved because with continued research, these horses are actual descendants from horses brought from Spain by Father Kino. His mission was located near Ajo, AZ right on the line between Mexico and Arizona.

Armed with enough evidence now to prove that these horses existed there prior to 1971 and should be included in the Wild Horses and Burros Act, I was scheduled to meet with the BLM regarding the disposal of these horses. Our meeting was on a Wednesday but on

Sunday, I found out that regardless of all my facts, the BLM would not manage for these horses. With a small brief prepared I faxed the information on to the Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt. Monday morning, the BLM had a sudden change of heart after hearing from the Secretary's office. When I arrived on Wednesday, I was greeted with a pleasant response that the BLM would manage for the Gila wild horses. This was the first time since the early 70's that a herd was given wild status recognition. We celebrated that day! The horses would be safe on their 55,000 acre Herd Management Area.

It wasn't but a year or so later, that the BLM called me into their office to tell me that they would begin removing problem animals there. The ranchers complained that the horses were eating in their alfalfa fields. Of course the horses had always eaten there and how did they know that their boundaries were changing? I discussed fencing the area but BLM said it would cost \$70,000 dollars. So in 1999, the local BLM wranglers began removing the "75" problem animals. Interesting that all they could find were just 36 animals. Even after an aerial census afterward, no more animals were spotted.

ISPMB had just taken 70 wild horses from White Sands (NM) and relocated them on the Sioux reservation in South Dakota. Now we had to move quickly to save these horses. The BLM agreed that we could adopt them and keep them in our conservation program to protect their gene pool. At that time, before the census, we were told that there another 35 horses existed in the area. Our plan was to interchange horses to keep the small gene pool alive between AZ and SD.

We drew blood samples on the horses and found that they were of Spanish origin and they had no outside bloodlines in the recent past. This cemented all of our research and we are confident that they are the last of the horses from the Father Kino's Spanish mission in the late 1600's. In February of 2,000, we took possession of the horses and transported them to SD in June.



Today, the horses are thriving. They are giving us baseline behavioral data on a herd that had been isolated since 1936 without human intervention other than to shoot them. They are extremely intelligent, small horses (under 14.2 hands), with a great conformation. The color pattern is that of the ancient horses – dun with zebra and dorsal stripes. Their coats are different – short and wiry. Their manes stick straight up in the air like a Zebras for several years until the weight finally makes it fall over. They are truly a rare find and we are thrilled to have them within our Conservation Center.

Knowing that we saved them from slaughter with the help of all of our ISPMB members is most rewarding. I hope you will be able to continue helping us save this extremely rare Spanish herd. They have been featured twice in National Geographic, and this year in the Smithsonian magazine.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After thirty years in wild horse and burro preservation, I am hopeful that ISPMB will have the answer to the protection and preservation of our great American Heritage species, the wild horses and burros. There is something to say about experience and history on ones side.

ISPMB is proudly celebrating its 50th year. I hope you have read some of our accomplishments. We have always been and remain a leader in the field of wild horse and burro protection.

If only we can all learn from history. The same rhetoric and same strategies continue throughout the wild horse movement. The only difference is new players and new faces. We have had strategic plan after strategic plan by the BLM. We have had outstanding suggestions by previous Advisory Boards that were never implemented by the Secretary of the Interior. Now we have an Advisory Board where many wild horse advocates are not chosen to serve on the Board during its thirteen years of continuous duty.

We are at a changing point in our American history where Congress has run amok. It certainly is a time that term limits should be considered for public servants. The term "public servants" is incongruent with the actions of Congress. Congress appears to serve special interests!

The wild horses and burros are the indicator species of where our country is moving. As our symbols of freedom continue to be eradicated so it is our liberties as American citizens are eroded.

With the multiple lawsuits, and extraordinary public outcry against the removal of wild horses and burros, our voices are not being heard. This is why ISPMB took a different direction in 2000 by obtaining wild horse herds in the first ever Wild Horse Conservation program managing entire herds.

If there is any hope left to stop the destruction of wild horse families, it is through conservation and understanding wild horses and their true nature. We are doing those studies right here. Our herds must thrive and we must grow. Our data is critical to the future preservation of wild horses on public lands.

Here are some statistics that should alarm all Americans:

- *In 1971, there were 303 herd areas defined – now only 180 remain*
- *In 1974, there were 60,000 wild horses and burros – now we have half that number.*
- *There are more horses captive than now than exist roaming free on public lands.*
- *Fertility rates in 1980 were 10% - now they are 20% caused by the disruption of the family bands.*
- *According to geneticist, Dr. Gus Cothran, out of 123 wild herds studied there are nearly 20% that show critical or near critical loss of genetic diversity. This statistic is alarming as wild horses have always had the greatest genetic diversity compared to any domestic breed of horse in our country.*

What is it going to take to save our heritage! You can help today by supporting our studies and our four wild herds. **ISPMB is the oldest wild horse and burro organization in the U.S.** We continue to be leaders in the field of understanding the wild horse and burro dilemma and understanding the true nature wild horses and burros.

The wild horses and I appreciate your generous support. We couldn't do it without you!

UPDATE ON SANTIAGO

Last July, we rescued Santiago, a three year old son of Sultan, our horse we featured in our last newsletter! Santiago is a magnificent young stallion, whose kindness matches his father's temperament. Santiago suffered a tear to his penis and had a hemoglobin of 3.8 which is not even compatible with life. He was brought in and started on special supplements. For three weeks he would not lie down. He was so weak that one morning we found him down and unable to get up. Knowing the strength of these great horses and their indomitable will to survive, we devised two girth and pulleys and picked him up with the tractor. Being as smart as this young stallion was, he was found down on the ground resting every night. He knew that we would come with the tractor to pick him up again. We did this every day for nearly three months. It was October and we were worried that the snows would come and he would not tolerate being on the ground even though he was blanketed. The ground was always covered in shavings so he had a

bed on the grass. In mid October, he was standing and I noted that he had shavings on his blanket! He was now able to get himself standing without the help of the tractor. What a wonderful Fall day that was! Today he is strong and all of his weight back on. We will keep him in one more winter and then the decision will be made as to whether he will rejoin his herd. There are so few Gila horses, that keeping the gene pool alive is so important.

Our criteria for returning horses are really strict. if they were injured in an accident, they can be returned under certain circumstances. If we rescue them because they are sick (West Nile Virus) then they are never returned. Our goal is that only the strong survive. After eleven years of managing these horses, management decisions are becoming very clear.

We are celebrating this stallion's return to a vibrant life knowing his great will to survive. He truly is a living miracle.

JUAN - SHEEP HERDING BURRO - SAVED BY ISPMB

By Karen Sussman

One wouldn't expect South Dakota to be the ideal place for a burro but they are here! Their jobs on the ranches are guarding the sheep regardless of weather. Juan was close to being sold for slaughter when I walked in the local feed store. With a gruff voice, the man behind the counter said, "Do you want a burro? Otherwise, he's going!" Within two hours, Shawn and I were at the ranch loading a wild burro. He had feet like elves' shoes. We had his feet trimmed and now he resides with our other two burros who became fast friends. They have a barn for shelter and the run of the corral. To spoil them a bit more, they eat plenty of carrots. Juan, Rita, and Jacque!





Spirit of The Ancients

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF MUSTANGS AND BURROS

PO Box 55
LANTRY, SD 57636-0055

Check out: our website for
updated news and pictures:

www.ISPMB.org

or Visit us on **Facebook!**



Gila foals



Gila Herd

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • Carrots for Juan, Jacque and Rita | \$5.00 donation |
| • A bag of Oats for Santiago | \$10.00 donation |
| • Senior feed for Geronimo, Wamblee, and our Elders | \$15.00 donation |
| • A bale of hay for one horse | \$35.00 donation |
| • Feed two horses for a month | \$70.00 donation |
| • Purchase a bag of milk for our orphans, Cate and Nagi | \$100.00 donation |
| • Sponsor your very own horse | \$150.00 donation |
| • Sponsor an orphaned foal | \$500.00 donation |
| • Sponsor a wild band (family) | \$1,000.00 donation |
| • Sponsor your own herd | \$5,000.00 donation |
| • Feed all of our horses for the winter | \$105,000.00 donation |

You see we can put any size donation to work!

Thank you for your generosity!