

## YOUR SUPPORT OF ISPMB HELPS SAVE THE 40,000 WILD HORSES IN HOLDING



International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros



We are the **ONLY** organization that has the information needed to save our public lands' wild horses. Please help us financially with a generous donation or a monthly donation so we can concentrate on completing our 17 years of studies. This is critical information needed to go before Congress this year! We need your support and appreciate you so very much.

## Arizona's Heber Herd Is In Peril!

As the extreme drought has hit the Navajo Nation, just south of the nation is the Heber Wild Horse herd. According to local residents, three or more wild horses were also found in a mud bog on their Forest Service Territory. The horses had injured legs and some were thought to have broken legs. It is believed that they were shot by an unknown person done as an act of humane euthanasia.



HEBER HERD  
© ROBERT HUTCHISON PHOTO

Cattle now are returning to the Heber Territory and without water hauled, there will be nothing for cattle, horses, or wildlife. With the drought continuing in Arizona, one can expect that vegetation will soon wither too. The wild horses of Heber need to be protected against over grazing by livestock. Already, there is a fire nearby at Woods Canyon that is 25% contained.

ISPMB has an active interest and ongoing court battle with the Forest Service, protecting the Heber herd. According to Karen Sussman, president, "It is a team effort and we are forever indebted to our attorney, Anthony Merrill, of Polsinelli who is doing an outstanding job."



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We need your support more than ever as our wild horses and burros are in more peril than ever since the Act passed. More than forty years of BLM's rant that wild horse populations are exploding in the West has caused this untruthful mantra to become truth in the eyes of Congress.

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Today, we hear the term "fake" news. We don't know where to turn to find the real honest truth except from those of us who have had on-the-ground experience in managing wild horses. ISPMB has been that organization and the only organization to manage wild horses without birth control and without interfering in decision-making for two of our herds and observing the deleterious effects of birth control on our other two herds. Our experience has been one that is irrevocable.

Now as we push on toward creating our CENTER, we manage only our rare and endangered Gila herd. Already, we are getting much data from this group that will be instrumental in the overall management for public lands horses.

With your continued financial support, we will be able to come before Congress and tell the truth that herds do not double every four years. Please help us save the last of our wild horses and burros in our country. Support ISPMB and our work.



## Nevada Scraps Plan To Give State's Wild Horses Away

For the past year, Nevada proposed to give the state's wild horses on the Virginia Range to a non-profit and rid their responsibility of management of these horses. In April, the Department of Agriculture reported that it received zero responses to a request for proposals from private groups in taking ownership of these horses.

These are the same horses that received the initial protection sought by Wild Horse Annie in the 50s. Although they were the first to receive protection, when the 1971 Act passed, they were not protected under the law because these horses were not on public lands.

In the meantime, with the Virginia Range horses crossing roads in now-developed areas, managing these animals would be a legal nightmare with possible lawsuits from motorists. It could bankrupt any non-profit.

These animals have been under the state's jurisdiction for more than 70 years and they must remain and continue to be protected.



HERBER HERD  
© ROBERT HUTCHISON PHOTO



GILA HERD  
© WALLY JARRATT PHOTO



# We Can Put Any Size Donation To Work

Here's what your generosity can do—**EVERY** amount helps!

**\$5...carrots for one horse**

**\$10...small bale of hay for one horse**

**\$20...senior feed for our elders**

**\$90...large bale of hay feeds a horse for a month**

**\$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 our Gila herd for a year\*\***

\*Receive a free three-day weekend at our ranch; airfare not included

\*\*Become a life-time member of ISPMB and receive a free three-day weekend at our ranch

GILA HERD © WALLY JARRATT PHOTO



GILA HERD © WALLY JARRATT PHOTO

## BLM Proposes New Adoption Guidelines

The BLM is proposing that they give adopters \$1,000 for each animal that they can adopt. This is a terrible idea and will result in the sale for slaughter of these animals and will bring those who cannot afford a horse or burro and who will have to eventually sell the animal.

Wild horses and burros are healthier and more genetic diverse than domestic breeds. One does not usually see leg or foot problems in a wild horse because it is "survival of the fittest." They should command a reasonable adoption fee and not a give-away.

Just as the fee-waiver program of the 80s, this is an attempt to rid the holding pastures of the 40,000 wild horses.

ISPMB contends that the majority of these horses should never have been gathered in the first place. BLM has not followed the law essentially since the Act was passed in Congress.





## BLM Pushing To Severely Limit Your "Right To Know"

A tool that is critical in finding out what is concealed or not disclosed by our government is called a FOIA - Freedom of Information Act.

This beautiful law was enacted on July 4, 1966 and was reluctantly signed by then-president, Lyndon B. Johnson. This law allows citizens to request information from the BLM that might not be forthcoming to the public. It ensures governance "by the people, and for the people" by keeping our government open and accountable.

After filing a FOIA, a response is required within 20 days. Although federal agencies were never happy with FOIAs in past administrations, it is much worse in this current administration.

According to the Washington Post, the BLM is recommending legislation that will limit the number of FOIA requests by a particular person or the agency they represent, creating stricter fees for FOIAs, and increased fees for search and redaction of information. (Most of us who file a FOIA request can request that the fees be waived, which is a great help.)

Further, the BLM can determine categorical exclusions if they determine there are no environmental impacts such as euthanizing wild horses and burros.

Last year, BLM's 1.3 billion dollar budget spent only 0.2% on FOIA requests. BLM can hardly defend the above proposed changes based on a limited budget which is one of their arguments.

This slippery slope of a lack of accountability and transparency will allow for the taking of public lands for gas, oil, and other damaging uses without the public's knowledge.

## ISPMB HISTORICAL TRIVIA

ISPMB was successful at getting the last wild horse herd identified as wild and free-roaming in 1996 in Arizona. The Gila horses were included in the Painted Rock Herd Area of Burros. Later they were removed into the care of ISPMB in 2000.



## Lasting Memories "Garden of Hope"

A gift to the wild and horses 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 ISPMB and America's wild horses and burros.



## ED MCGAA "Eagle Man"

### Oglala Tribal Member and Great Supporter of ISPMB

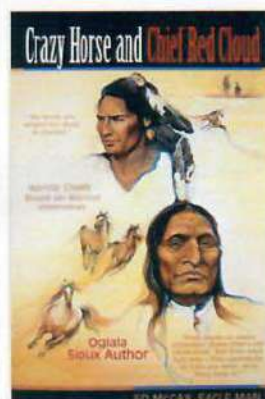
Ed McGaa, Oglala Tribal member and great supporter of ISPMB, known as Eagle Man, died on August 25, 2017. He was 81 years old. Ed was an avid supporter of ours and a great teacher, who helped our understanding of the native culture with which we are surrounded.

Ed served in two wars, the Korean and Vietnam War. He flew 157 missions in Vietnam and returned to finish his law degree. He was an accomplished writer.

You can read his books that he so generously donated to ISPMB. All proceeds help ISPMB achieve our goals in saving America's wild horses and burros.



**CRAZY HORSE AND CHIEF RED CLOUD: HUNTING PHEASANTS IN SOUTH DAKOTA**  
Cost \$15 + \$3 shipping



ISPMB also acknowledges the following members who have passed in recent years and have so generously remembered ISPMB in their wills. Their legacy will live on with ISPMB.

- ELEANOR K. DECKER
- ROBERT AND AUDREY GALLOW
- ARTHUR AND VIOLA WALKENHORST



**NAVAJO NATION  
ALLOWS**

**191 WILD  
HORSES**

**TO DIE OF  
DEHYDRATION**

In early May, in Gray Mountain, an unincorporated community in Coconino County in north central Arizona, horses were found dead at a dried-up water hole they frequent. The horses were knee-to-neck deep in mud which they could not escape. One foal was found alive and is doing well.

According to Jonathan Nez, vice-president of the nation, the horses were too weak to get out. One foal did survive the ordeal and was taken to a local humane shelter. Although when a foal survives and the adults do not, it is not from a lack of vegetation but the inability to survive a mud bog. If there is a lack of vegetation, the foals die first and the adults survive. That is how nature planned it.

Gray Mountain, a remote area, has been home to wild horses, according to a Navajo resident we interviewed. The Navajo Nation is the largest Native American tribe in our country. Their nation encompasses parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

The ongoing drought in Arizona has affected more than 6 million people who live in the state and is especially severe in the area where the horses were found.

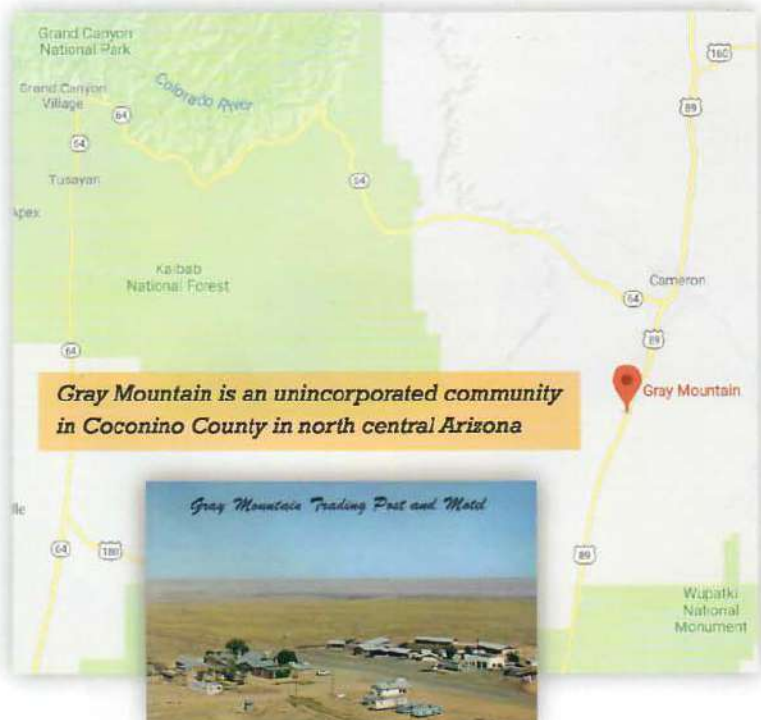
The horse dilemma for the Navajo Nation has been an ongoing one. Tribal government has not imposed any restrictions on their members who allow their animals to roam free without monitoring their growth, whether it is horses or sheep. Another factor is the ancient knowledge understood by the traditional people who know that the horses are sacred. Therefore, if slaughtered, the nation will suffer the consequences from such actions.

There seems to be a simple fix and that is to change the government's rules on grazing livestock on the land. There are several tribal members who would like to create a training program for horses and begin adoptions. This should be implemented.

However, killing the horses or selling for slaughter will have dire consequences for the Navajo Nation. The traditional beliefs must be upheld.

In question is the Tribe's assertion that there are 70,000 horses roaming their land. There has never been a count to determine numbers. There is a great similarity to our federal government's assertion that there are 70,000 wild horses on public lands. No count has ever been done to assess the total numbers of animals. Numbers are based on arm-chair computations without field data.

While it is important that the Navajo Nation continues its self-governance, without interference, it is extremely important that this situation be resolved in the best manner for the animals.



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*Spirit of the Ancients*

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros

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



## America's Horses and Burros Are Safe, But for How Long?

Each year, our wild horses and burros narrowly escape the desires of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) ongoing efforts to achieve "sale authority," meaning sale for slaughter.

This year was no exception when Congress narrowly passed the moratorium preventing slaughter of excess healthy horses and burros on March 23rd. The moratorium has been in the appropriation bill yearly and in effect since the early '80s.



WILD HORSE ANNIE

Wild Horse Annie, ISPMB's first president, agreed that at some point in time there would be "excess" wild horses and burros after the passage of the 1971 Act. Rather than subject these magnificent animals to the same fate of their ancestors who were cruelly rounded up, torn from families, and shipped to slaughter packed like sardines, a provision in the Act allows for their euthanasia in the field. To counter this part of the 1971 Act, Annie and ISPMB created the concept of the adoption

program which became the BLM's National Adopt-A-Horse-Burro program in 1976. Since then, over 200,000 wild horses and burros have been adopted.

Here is what the 2018 Appropriations law provides:

- The moratorium on killing healthy "excess" wild horses and burros in the field has been upheld.
- No funds will be available to inspect horses under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, hence continuing the ban on killing horses in our country (upheld since 2007).
- The Secretary may continue multiyear cooperative agreements with nonprofit organizations and other appropriate entities in continuing care for wild horses and burros in long-term care.
- The Forest Service shall have funds available to transfer to the BLM for removal, preparation, and adoption of excess wild horses and burros from the National Forest Service lands.

This appropriation law will be in effect until the end of September unless there are continuing resolutions. Then, there will be a push again to destroy America's wild horses and burros. We must be prepared.

We thank you for the many calls you did to your Representatives and Senators. You were heard! AND, please remember that your vote counts. Check with your Congress persons and determine how they voted. Your voice is powerful.

**Contact your Senator  
and Representative**

Please call your Senators and Representative and ask them to save America's wild horses and burros. Ask them to continue the moratorium which would prohibit the BLM from killing healthy excess wild horses and burros in the field. Contact your Senators and Representative regarding the 2019 Appropriation Bill.

[www.senate.gov/senators/contact](http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact) • [www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)