

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros

ISPMB



*Spirit of the Ancients*

Vol. 48 Issue 1  
Winter 2008

EXTRAORDINARY DATA  
SHOWING WHY  
FERTILITY RATES  
INCREASED  
IN BLM HERDS

Photo by Cheryl Rowe



# THE VIRGINIA RANGE HERD



photo by Shawn Hamilton

## **ANNIE'S HORSES Virginia Range Wild Horses' Need Your Help**

ISPMB completed the largest wild horse rescue since the close of the three slaughter plants in the United States last year. More than 200 wild horses were adopted in the dead of winter last year. ISPMB still retains the original wild horses identified by their Nevada brands on their necks.

There are 42 mares with 24 foals and 40 stallions temporarily located at ISPMB's Conservation Center. Although the stallions have not been turned out with the mares, all the mares received PZP (contraceptive). We are grateful to the Humane Society of the United States and Dr. Jay Kirkpatrick for their efforts to assist ISPMB with our contraception program.

ISPMB was contacted by a group in Wisconsin from the Oneida Tribe who indicated their desire to take

the horses by this past mid summer. We had hoped that we would have good news in finding them a home under the same conservation principals as ISPMB's. Our Wisconsin group will not have land available until March 2009. To date, they have not guaranteed any funding for this herd. This means that ISPMB will house these horses throughout the winter again. With the foals growing, our hay demand is higher than ever.

Other conservation avenues are now being actively investigated. Our goal is to have these horses wild and free again within the next six months. If you can help with donations to purchase hay, we would be most grateful. The cost to keep this herd is \$4,000 per month. If we had a herd sponsor each month, we could easily manage these costs. Won't you consider sponsoring a herd?

## **Wild Virginia Range Mare Reunited With Her Herd**

In October, one of five Virginia Range wild horses was retrieved from a private rancher on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation. The last five wild horses have evaded capture by the Tribe and now four continue to roam free on the 22,000-acre ranch.

As the trailer pulled into the Conservation Center, one of the Virginia Range mares came running up to the fence and began whinnying to the new mare. It was a

beautiful reunion to see families come together again. The mare was released into the herd after being contained for one week as she acclimated to her new home.

**It is ISPMB's goal to keep these horses running wild and free.**

**Please help us save this historic herd!**

**THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF MUSTANGS AND BURROS**  
PO BOX 55 • LANTRY, SD • 57636 • TAX ID 94-616-9422  
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# ISPMB

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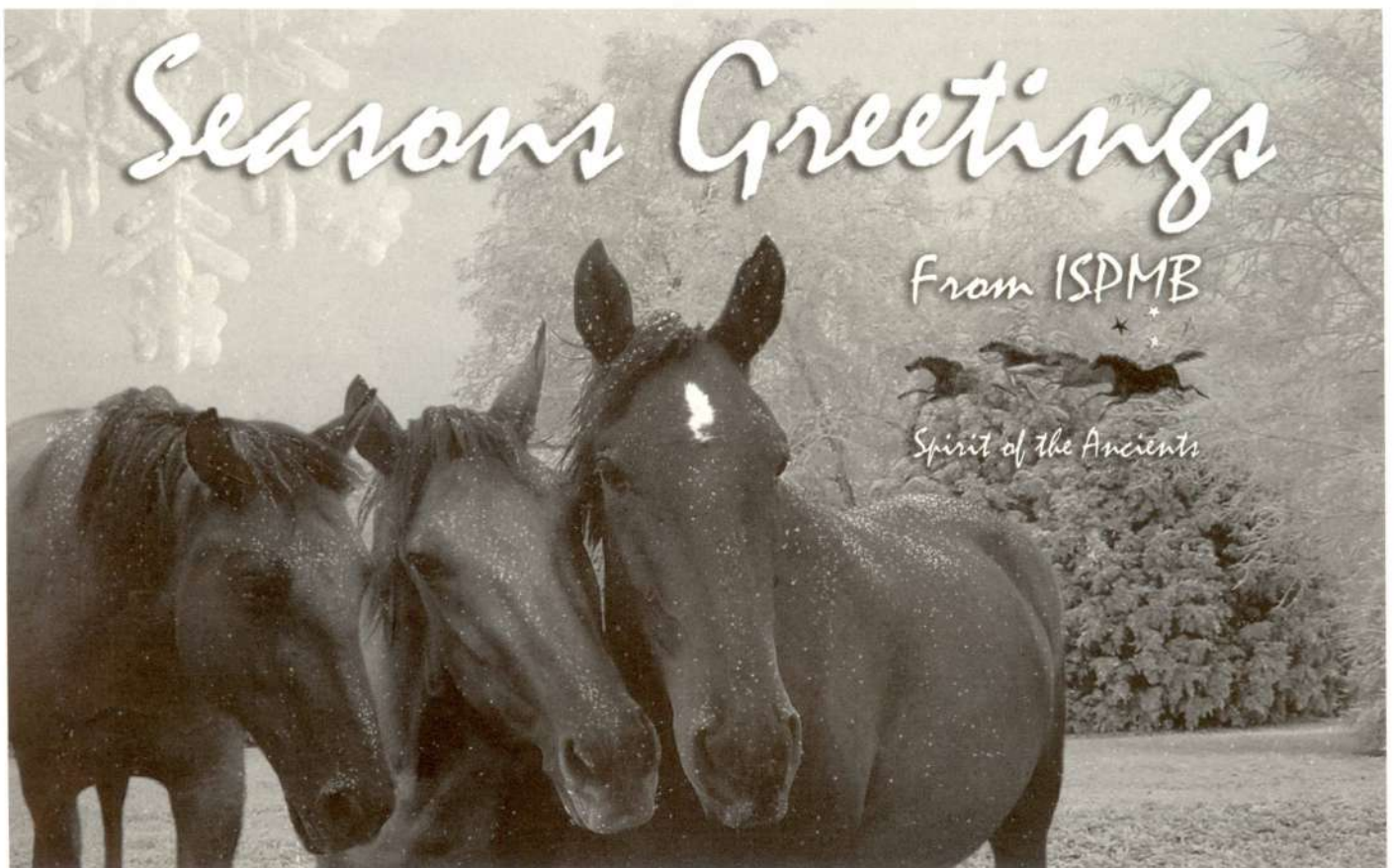
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# President's Report

By: Karen Sussman

In the past three years, ISPMB has weathered catastrophic events that have threatened our herds. Yet, these words of a Lakota Medicine person continue to ring loud and clear, "Your project is a project of God and you are never to worry because the money will always follow." These words were articulated in the year 2000. That was my first year on the Sioux reservations. Little did I understand the true meaning of those words until recently.

In the past three years, we have encountered great challenges. First was the drought with no hay production in over 100 miles of our location. We sat right in the epicenter of the drought. We paid more than double for our hay that year. In 2007, we faced taking back more than 300 wild horses that were given to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. We currently are caring for the 82 plus original horses that came to the reservation in 2001. This year, our country is facing the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression of 1929. We have hay this year and the price is right, yet we must again raise over \$200,000 with most of it going toward the cost of hay. Our goal before year's end is to bring in \$100,000.

This year was an important milestone in our wild horse management. Little did I know that when we took our first wild herd, the White Sands horses, what a treasure they would be. Then when a second herd became available the following year in 2000, I never imagined what a cache of information they would provide. Accepting the third herd, the Catnips, became the key to understanding the gold mine that existed in the first two herds. Now more than ever, I understand the medicine man's words... "a project of God."

With our current information and data compiled, it is our hope to get BLM to change their method of management of wild horses on public lands before it is too late. The future survival of wild horses may depend upon the information we are gleaning here. It will be our goal to begin studies with Universities who are interested in wild horse behavior. What we have to offer is something that may be hard to find on public lands. Our two herds represent horses that exhibit behaviors that were noted in studies in the late 70's. The health of these two herds comes from long lasting intact harems – not disrupted over a very long time with the only exception to be moved here.

There is only one herd on public lands that has not been gathered in a very long time and that is the Montgomery Pass herd where mountain lions keep the predation down. Maybe second to these horses would be the Cerbat horses in Arizona.

The Cerbat numbers are dwindling because of mountain lion predation. There are not a lot of herds that have not been continually disrupted by continuous roundups.

Just recently, I observed the Gila herd work as a cohesive unit in chasing my two dogs out of their 500- acre pasture. It just didn't happen once but twice in a span of 30 minutes and then the dogs learned their lesson. There is no doubt that if a mountain lion were to approach this herd that they would do the same thing. Maybe this is why I rarely see coyotes in that pasture.

Now I am eager to see the Virginia Range wild horses released. Although all the mares have received PZP, it will be interesting to note their behaviors after spending seven years without gathering them on Tribal land. The original horses should retain the herd wisdom. Time will tell.

On the last note, ISPMB would love to purchase an available ranch that is suited ideally for tourism. Our Capital Campaign is to kick off this January. We need Campaign Committee people to help achieve this goal. The 5,000- acre ranch is 4.5 million dollars and remains available. We see windmills on this ranch. For what the ranch grows in hay, we could recoup this investment in a short time by what we would save in the cost of hay.

May the approaching holidays bring blessings to all.

With gratitude to all of our members,



Karen A. Sussman



One of the Catnip Herd, photo by Cheryl Rowe

## Front Cover

This cover photo was taken by Cheryl Rowe. After purchasing a new digital camera, Cheryl headed up to ISPMB to take pictures of the Wild Horses in Lantry, SD. Over the years so many wonderful, and much experienced, Photographers have come to ISPMB. We welcome photographers of every level to come and take photographs of these marvelous animals and some of the other wildlife in the area. Call Karen for more photo opportunities at 605-964-6866.





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Dreams can come true.

## Capital Campaign Begins!

With rising hay costs and increasing number of herds in ISPMB's Conservation program, a Capital Campaign is underway to raise \$5 million dollars to purchase property.

ISPMB has a ranch in view right now that would produce enough hay for 6 herds and allow one herd to range free on the 5,000 acres. This ranch would be a great tourism ranch located close to the Interstate.

What ISPMB pays in hay to support our four herds could easily go toward yearly payments on the property.

**Stefanie Powers**, National Spokesperson for ISPMB has agreed to accept a position on our Campaign Committee.

We are asking for your support both financially and those whose expertise would add great value in serving on our committee.

If you are interested in serving on our committee please contact ISPMB's office at **605-964-6866**.

We graciously acknowledge our first donation from:

**Betsey Albert** - \$1,000

## About ISPMB

**ISPMB is the oldest wild horse and burro organization in the United States**, founded in 1960 by Helen and John Reilly of Reno, Nevada.

Wild Horse Annie served as the first president of the incorporated organization and she remained president until her death in 1977. ISPMB has numerous accomplishments in the preservation of wild horses and burros. Please check our website for more information – [www.ispmb.org](http://www.ispmb.org)



# Emergency Wild Horse Summit Provides BLM With Viable Alternatives to Genocide

In response to the BLM's threat to kill more than 33,000 wild horses in holding pastures in the Midwest, ISPMB co-hosted an Emergency Wild Horse Summit in Las Vegas.

The October 11th and 12th meeting brought together leading equine scientists, behavioral ecologists, other wild horse experts and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the agency mandated by law to protect wild horses and burros. The forum discussed the latest statistics, facts, and science related to the management of wild horses and burros. The goal of the Summit was two-pronged looking at management on the public lands and determining a viable solution to euthanasia for the 33,000 wild horses in holding pastures.

The forum was attended by more than 150 people who brought individual comments proposing changes to existing management practices within the BLM. The entire event was videotaped and DVD's will be available on line soon. Attendees included Michael Blake, author, *Dances with Wolves*; Mrs. Madeleine Pickens, respected horse breeder and animal advocate, who pledged a commitment to saving the wild horses targeted for slaughter. The Summit was pleased to have two professional facilitators, John Stahl-Wert and Mary Ann Simonds who kept the speakers and participants on target.

Discussions by wild horse advocates and attorneys indicated that the 33,000 wild horse removals were not based on law but on "emergency gathers." The only way excess can be determined is through monitoring. Although climate changes have been a factor, BLM has a CFR (regulation) that allows for livestock to be removed in lieu of wild horses and burros. This regulation is rarely implemented by the BLM.

Dr. Gus Cothran, leading equine geneticist in the world, showed that out of 123 wild herds studied of the 199 remaining, there are nearly 20% that show critical or near critical loss of genetic diversity. Loss of genetic diversity results from too many removals of wild horses and limited numbers now in their



The Wild Horse summit, Las Vegas, October 2008.

population. Dr. Cothran went on to say that the absolute minimum numbers of horses in a population should be no less than 150 breeding adults. That should exclude all horses three and under and older horses not contributing to the breeding program. BLM statistics show that 75% of the herds have population's fewer than 150 animals.

ISPMB's statistical data showed that the increase in fertility and recruitment rates in populations is directly related to BLM's removal policy separating stallions from their mares. The constant disruption of the integrity of the bands every three to five years is causing destabilization of the bands. Younger stallions are becoming harem leaders who are breeding younger fillies aged one and two. In stable herds that have not experienced the constant disruption of the bands, fillies are not bred until they are four years of age. It stands to reason that if two and three year old fillies are contributing to the gene pool, that populations would double and even triple increasing fertility rates from 12% to 24% and higher.

It was noted that the BLM still does not have a training program for their Wild Horse And Burro Specialists. In 1990-92, one of the recommendations to the Secretary of Interior by the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board was to implement a training program and a marketing program. To date, BLM has not implemented these programs. In not understanding the wild horse and burro as wildlife species but treating them like domestic livestock as BLM does, has put the future of wild horses and burros in a potential critical situation for long-term survival.



Since the implementation of the Wild Horses and Burros Act of 1971, BLM has eliminated wild horses and wild burros from 104 of their Herd Areas. This equates to 19.2 million acres of land that rightfully belong to these animals. The Summit participants made the following recommendations:

- An immediate moratorium on wild horse/burro removals must be implemented.
- The BLM should return the 33,000 wild horses to their rightful lands on the 19.2 million acres designated for them.
- The return of the horses will give a savings of \$21 million dollars to the BLM, which must be used for monitoring and inventorying of the herds.
- There should be a national BLM policy on determining AML that will be in strict adherence of the 1971 law by determining "excess" animals based on monitoring and determining what animal is causing damage.
- In determining AML, one of the most important factors should be the genetic and behavioral health of the herd. BLM must protect wild horses and burros for future generations to enjoy.
- An absolute minimum of 150 breeding animals should make up every herd area.
- Before any removals are done, genetic testing of a sampling of animals should be carried out by Dr. Cothran to determine the genetic health of the herd.
- Animals should not be removed if genetic viability is threatened.
- There should be no transfer of animals from one herd area to another allowing BLM to continue removing horses from a genetically threatened herd by interchanging animals. Each herd is a culture unto itself and each culture must be preserved. BLM must look at other alternatives such as removal of livestock from these areas.
- The BLM should support external adoption marketing programs.
- Any policy implemented in the management of wild horses and burros should be tested and approved prior to the execution of the policy and be in the best interest of the wild horses and burros. This includes understanding the wild horse/burro as wild life species and having

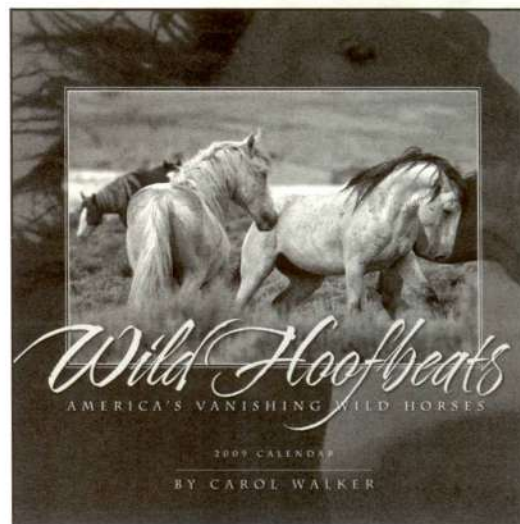
a true understanding of their social behaviors, herd and band dynamics, harem structures, harem dominance, bonding, and social orders.

It will be important that a moratorium on gathers be immediately implemented until the health of the herds is assessed through genetic and behavioral observations. The future of America's wild horses and burros may well depend upon this determination.



Karen Sussman, Micheal Blake, author of *Dances With Wolves*, and Marisa Morin at the Wild Horse Summit. Micheal gave an inspiring speech.

## Carol Walkers Beautiful 2009 Calendar



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# Extraordinary Data Showing Why Fertility Rates Increased in BLM Herds

**Observational Studies at ISPMB's Conservation Center  
Conclude Fertility Rates Increase  
When Harem Bands are  
Continually Disrupted by Round Ups**

By Karen Sussman

After nine years of studying ISPMB's herds to create a model wild horse management program, data is now available showing that constant separation of stallions from their harems during roundups may actually contribute to increasing recruitment rates within the BLM's herds. We use recruitment rates rather than fertility rates since it is the increase in number of animals being retained in the herd that is most important to the BLM.

The following will show that BLM's management of wild horses as "livestock" instead of understanding the true nature of wild horses as wildlife species has led to creating BLM's dilemma of doubling herds in five years.

In 1999, when ISPMB took its first herd (White Sands), we had no idea what a miracle it would be. In 2000 when our second herd (Gila) was available, ISPMB made room for the rare Spanish group from central Arizona. Both herds had not been captured or removed in at least ten to almost 60 years. The White Sands Herd remained intact in the Obscura Mountains of the White Sands Missile Range for more than ten years and possibly for decades. The Gila Herd from central AZ was never gathered since 1936. The horses were randomly shot by ranchers there.

The greatest miracle in our program was receiving these herds that had little to no disruption in their band structures until they were finally removed from their long-standing habitats. Assuming that these herds were the norm, that assumption changed drastically with the arrival of the Catnip herd in 2004. The oldest horse coming from the Catnip herd was only ten years of age. Removals of these horses were done by gate cuts; meaning whatever was caught was removed.

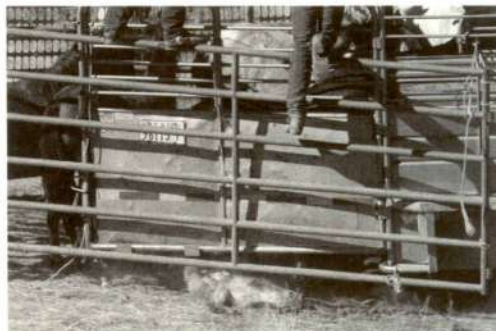
Noting that the first two herds that had little disruptions had recruitment rates at 10-14% while the Catnip herd had rates at 31%. In the two undisturbed herds, fillies remained in their natal bands until they

reached four years of age. One young stallion, now five years old, still remains in his natal band. While observing the Catnip herd, one can watch one-year old fillies being bred by rogue stallions. Band structures in this herd are not cohesive. Many of the horses are still not banded up. The White Sands herd has had stable harem stallions now for nine years. The harem stallion plays an extremely important role in protecting his harem and the young fillies and colts until they are ready to leave. There is little change in harem stallions in this herd, which makes for a very stable group.

It can be noted that the BLM herds can double in just 4 – 5 years. It has been observed that harem bands never completely match up again as they were prior to gathers when re-released. This destruction of the social integrity of the bands creates chaos in their educational system. Hence younger studs are taking harems and often they no longer have role models from which to learn. Young fillies, pregnant at two years of age certainly are not role models for their young either.

ISPMB will continue to bring forth more information in a desire to end the way BLM removes wild horses from public lands. Horses must only be removed by their bands so the integrity of the band structures can be preserved.

It makes great sense that fillies having foals at two and three have contributed to the increase in recruitment rates that BLM is now observing on public lands. A change in their management will help them reduce fertility rates – if it is not too late.



A BLM gather gone wrong. The mare was lodged under the trailer for a length of time.  
Photos by Carol Walker.





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# ISPMB Fears Disruption of Wild Horse Bands May Result in Permanent Behavior Changes that Could Threaten Wild Horse Survival

As ISPMB continues to compile data on our three herds under study for the past nine years, we have become greatly concerned about the future of wild horses on public lands.

In 1992, when ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman, served on the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, a recommendation was given to the Interior and Agricultural Secretaries for BLM to develop a training program for Wild Horse and Burro Specialists. To date, the recommendation was never adopted by the BLM and to date, there is still no training program.

How can anyone manage a wildlife species without having training to do so? Herein lies one of the major problems within the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program. Given the mandate to protect America's wild horses and burros in 1971, the program has been nothing more than a "livestock" removal program. Treating wild horses like livestock has endangered their future existence.

Wild Horse Annie always wanted the wild horses and burros to fall under the control of the National Park Service. She was absolutely right. Although Annie wasn't aware that wild horses evolution completed itself on the North American continent making them reintroduced native wildlife, she understood that the Park Service had a different "culture." (Park Service mandate is to manage for native flora and fauna.) It was not the grazing, cattle friendly culture of the BLM whose mandate was to eliminate wild horses and burros from public lands. The forerunner of the BLM known as the Grazing Service worked hard to eradicate wild horses and burros killing hundreds of thousands.

When one looks at a dog and a wolf, they look similar. It is the same when one looks at a wild horse and

a domestic horse. The difference is eons of time of natural breeding and being wild and free. With this natural wildness come extraordinary behaviors that are natural and pure. This is what makes understanding the true nature of a wild horse so astonishing. The stallions at times are ferocious with each other and at other times they are seen nurturing and loving with their mares and foals. They play an extremely important role in keeping their harem protected and intact. Every time BLM separates the stallion from his harem in removals, either the stallion is completely removed from the herd or the stallion is re-released back to his territory. Maybe one or two mares may reunite with the stallion but observation shows that other mares in the harem end up with other stallions, often younger.

ISPMB's observation of returning mares to their harems or returning a stallion to the herd results in the mare banding up with other stallions or the stallion never regaining his mares. Only once have we observed a stallion take back his entire herd. This was Ian, the great harem stallion from the Gila herd who was removed for six weeks due to an injury to his coronet. He regained full usage of his foot after surgery. The Vanity Fair photographer captured the release with his photographs. Ian took on the four younger stallions that taunted him daily for more than a year. Today, Ian is still in charge of his harem.

If one is in the "livestock" business, the philosophy is to have many mares with a few "good" studs. The same is with the cattle. Usually there are only about six bulls that breed hundreds of cows. They usually change the bulls every so many years. What happens immediately is the loss of genetic diversity. In healthy herds, there is usually a 50/50 ratio of studs to mares or similar. BLM is now talking about changing ratios within the herds having more stallions than mares to help reduce recruitment rates. We advise not to do this but to emulate the natural behaviors of the wild. BLM did do this with a herd in NM and ultimately the mare ratio declined even further threatening the viability of the herd (Jicarilla).

Domestic horse breeds are seeing problems now from having only a few stallions breeding all the mares. Surely we should be studying these cases and learning as much as we can about the natural behavior of wild horses.



In observing the film of Robert Vavra who studied the behaviors of the Camargue horses in France, the behaviors in that herd were no different than the behaviors we are observing in the White Sands and Gila herds.

We commend the BLM that one recommendation from 1992 became policy but not for the reason it was given by the Advisory Board. Horses over the age of five were to be returned to the herd areas allowing the older and wiser animals to continue to educate their offspring. BLM did like the idea because five and under animals were easier to adopt. Hence the recommendation was accepted. BLM now just commits horses over the age of five to long-term holding areas without justification. What we knew then and know now is – it is not age that determines the wildness of the animal but the personality of the animal. It is not adoptability but adaptability. Some horses under the age of five should never have been removed due to their wild nature. Then some horses aged ten and older make great partners with humans. Often bachelor stallions who are older do well in sharing their lives with us.

It is ironic that BLM has created its own problem, the doubling of the recruitment rates, by destroying the integrity of the harem bands causing a once perfect educational system in the wild to become a classroom of disorder.

Now that the Catnips have been here four years, we are not seeing any great changes in their behaviors. Young fillies are still being bred too early. Foals are being abandoned by the fillies and growing up on their own. Rogue stallions are not being subjugated to good behavior by dominant harem stallions. We are developing criteria now to begin to look at how we can change these behaviors. With the few healthy bands in the herd, no animals will be removed. Young animals that are abandoned at a young age will be removed and put up for adoption. Our goal is to have the educated begin teaching the uneducated. We will continue to observe and collect data. In the meantime, we have given most of the mares contraceptive as we continue to develop our strategy. This will allow us to see the effects of PZP on their behaviors as well.

Living amongst our herds has given us great insight into the wild nature of these magnificent horses. This can be done by the BLM too if they choose to.

## Couldn't We Use An Interior Secretary Who Really Cares? Write President Elect Obama, Tell Him We Support Rep. Grijalva

Please help us assure our country has a Secretary of Interior who really cares about the public lands and it wild horses and burros. Rep Raul M Grijalva (D-AZ) may be emerging as the top contender for the post according to Politico.com

The Interior Dept. oversees federal lands, national parks, and endangered species. The Interior will play a leading role in greenhouse gas regulation in the next year. The Congressman has introduced several bills in Congress to restore and protect federal lands.

Currently Grijalva is chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands.

Please help us by writing to President Elect OBama's transition team at:

<http://www.change.gov/page/s/yourstory>



White Sands youngsters - photo by Wally Jarratt



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Because of your support  
we have overcome obstacles in the past,  
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## SPONSOR A WILD HORSE

**Your Opportunity to Help Us  
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Our sponsorship program is a wonderful way to send gifts over the holiday. This will help us in purchasing hay for our herds. We thank the following people.

**Thank You** to our generous members who have  
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Carol Vietor

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Stefanie Powers (Barbara Tarney) \$250

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## **Thank You** to our generous members who have **Sponsored a Band for \$1000**

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Roger Nelson



Photo by Wally Jarratt



Orphaned foal Janey, photo by Cheryl Rowe



Some Gila mares, photo by Cheryl Rowe



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and will continue to do so in the future.

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*Members who donate \$5000 will have their  
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**\* Please note – if we have accidentally excluded your  
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it appears in the next magazine. We apologize  
but it has been a while since we have published  
our magazine.**

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Betty Lee Kelly  
Carol Lushear (2)  
Merlis and Roy Larson  
Ann Marini  
Brian Miller  
Gayla Nelson  
Roger Nelson

## Sponsored a Herd for \$5000

John K Castle  
Donna Caplan (2)  
April and Jay Herrin  
Andrea Laderman  
Mark Laderman

## Lasting Memories Garden of Hope

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.



## Need For Funding Critical

### ISPMB'S GOAL TO RAISE \$100,000 BY YEARS END

If every member donated \$35 monthly, ISPMB's Conservation Program could breathe a sigh of relief. We would make our monthly target ensuring hay for our herds. We know we are entering hard economical times. Yet one of our wonderful donors noted that all of us, if we desire, could find some funding for what we believe is important.

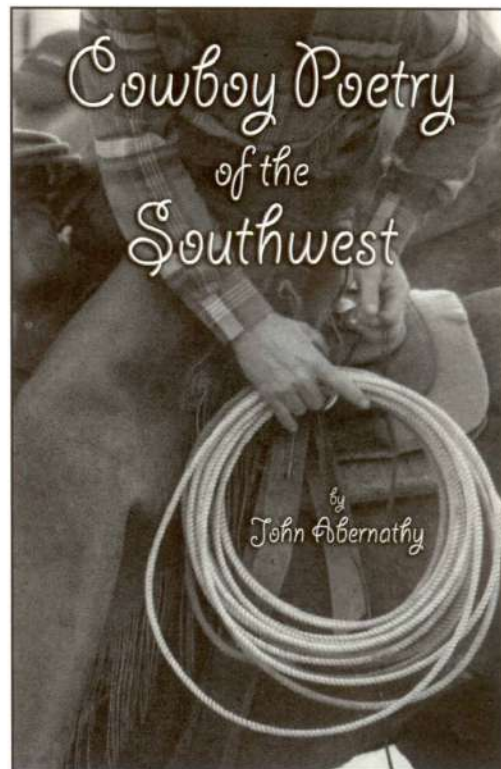
It is critical to the welfare and the future of all wild horses, that ISPMB's Conservation program continues full steam. We are the only organization that manages entire herds of wild horses. Creating our model management program will assist the BLM in its management of wild horses on public rangelands. It was ISPMB that gave the BLM many of its programs such as the national adoption program, volunteer compliance, and pre-adoption educational programs. And let's not forget that it was ISPMB and Wild Horse Annie who were instrumental in getting the 1971 law passed to protect wild horses and burros. We all have many successes to be proud of!

As we complete this winter buying more hay, our goal is to purchase a larger ranch and begin harvesting our own hay. Until then, we still need to purchase six months of hay before the real South Dakota winter sets in.

In less than thirty days, ISPMB has set its sites high! We hope you will help us reach our goal raising \$100,000. The monthly cost to maintain our wild horses averages \$20,000 per month.

Unlike many organizations, the majority of our funding goes to our programs and little goes to administrative costs.

### John Abernathy's Book



This book of poetry written by songwriter, John C. Abernathy is available for purchase of \$8.00. **All proceeds are donated to ISPMB.**

One of the poems turned lyrics, "Runnin in the West" written from a horse's point of view, got a nomination for an Emmy Award in 2001. It was written about a mustang that John saw in Nashville. To order your book, please contact John at [beartrack30@yahoo.com](mailto:beartrack30@yahoo.com)

## Another Way To Help ISPMB whenever you search anything on the web!

Every time you do a search on the web, please use **GoodSearch.com**. You can set it as your default search engine. It will ask you for your charity and please type in: **ISPMB** When you hit verify, **International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros** will show.

For each search you do, ISPMB receives 1 penny. With 5,000 searches per year, we have raised \$50.00. Please save in your Bookmarks and use whenever you search for anything.

[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)



## ISPMB is Proud to Announce the Addition of Three New Members to its Council Circle

### **Andrea Devenow:**

Andrea received her Bachelor and Masters degrees in economics from UCLA. She is currently a media consultant for Warner Bros. and Buzznet. Previously to her newborn son being born, she was head of business development for a media technology company called ZING, which was acquired by Dell in August 2007.

Andrea's past roles include Vice-president of business development for Napster, and Executive Director at MGM Studios. Throughout her career Ms. Devenow has maintained her love of animals and has made a priority to fight for animal welfare. She has worked behind the scenes helping to raise money for the ISPMB since 2006. She chaired ISPMB's "non-event" fundraiser in 2007.

### **Heather Collins:**

Heather received both English and Art degrees from the University of Denver. She is a writer, oil painter in addition to being an animator/graphic designer for such companies as Shockwave and Warner Bros.

Her commitment to wild horses was evident when she and her husband Tim were married in 2006. Instead of accepting traditional wedding gifts, they created a registry to support a wild horse organization.

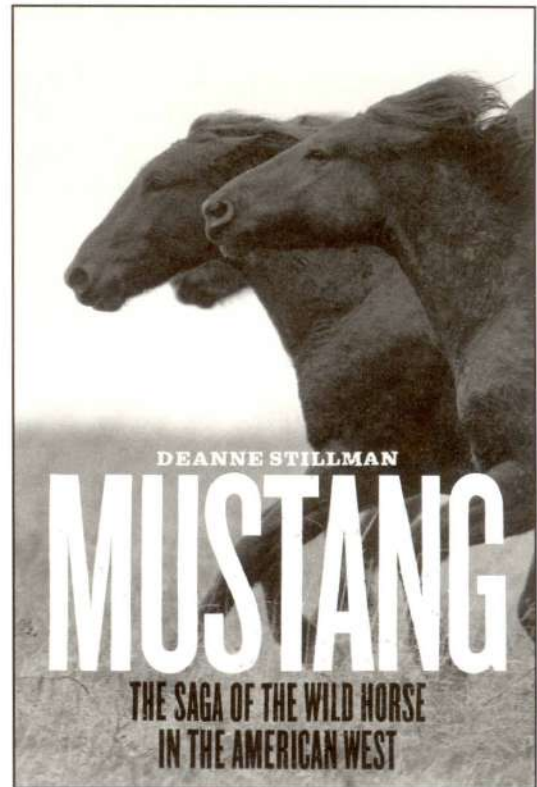
Heather is a seasoned horsewoman competing in show jumping.

Ms. Collins is currently revising ISPMB's website which should be operational before the end of this year. She is writing a book about a mustang ranch, which she hopes to have published soon.

### **Cheryl Rowe:**

Cheryl graduated with honors from York Academy of Arts in Pennsylvania in 1979. By applying both creativity and computer skills, she became a desktop publishing specialist and worked in the Textbook Composition Industry for most of her career. She is now the Visual Merchandise Manager

### **A MUST READ by Author Deanne Stillman**



"A stampeding, crusading history." - Kirkus Reviews

"Like the best nonfiction writers of our time (Jon Krakauer and Bruce Chatwin come to mind), Stillman's prose is inviting, her voice authoritative and her vision imaginative and impressively broad...[Mustang] is an invaluable history." - LA Times

"Urgent, compelling, and unforgettable." - King Features

"Brisk, smart, thorough, and surprising." - Atlantic Monthly

"An extraordinary epic - you'll never forget it." - Penthouse

"Might well be essential reading for westerners." - Missoulian

"There is no 'happily ever after' in Stillman's magnificently told saga." - Albuquerque Journal

"Remarkable." - Tony Hillerman

"Stunning." - Michael Blake

On sale now at your local bookstores. Also available at amazon, or for signed copies, please visit [www.iconoclastbooks.com](http://www.iconoclastbooks.com) or call 877-726-1564

for an upscale department store. She is an active painter and continues to work in the field of art and design as a graphic designer and proprietor of Dark Canyon Design. Examples may be viewed at [www.darkcanyondesign.com](http://www.darkcanyondesign.com)

She currently designs many printing projects for ISPMB at no charge, including this newsletter.



# A Road Less Traveled

ISPMB was blessed in July with a visit from a group of young men and woman from the **Road Less Traveled**. This organization offers youth a unique service learning experience through national and international wilderness expeditions.

The group came to ISPMB as part of their *Spirit of the West Program* where the young men and women spent time working at ISPMB, and also hiked the Badlands and spent time learning the Lakota culture on both the Cheyenne River and Rosebud Indian Reservations.

The group was a tremendous help. They assisted with the daily ranch chores as well as general maintenance around the ranch. As they immersed themselves in the daily tasks they learned about wild horse behavior.

While they were here, an injured filly was brought in for hospital care from the Catnip herd. There was a concern this little foal might not survive, but she received so much love and care from the group that she made a speedy recovery. Abby from the group named the filly Princess Baby Girl.

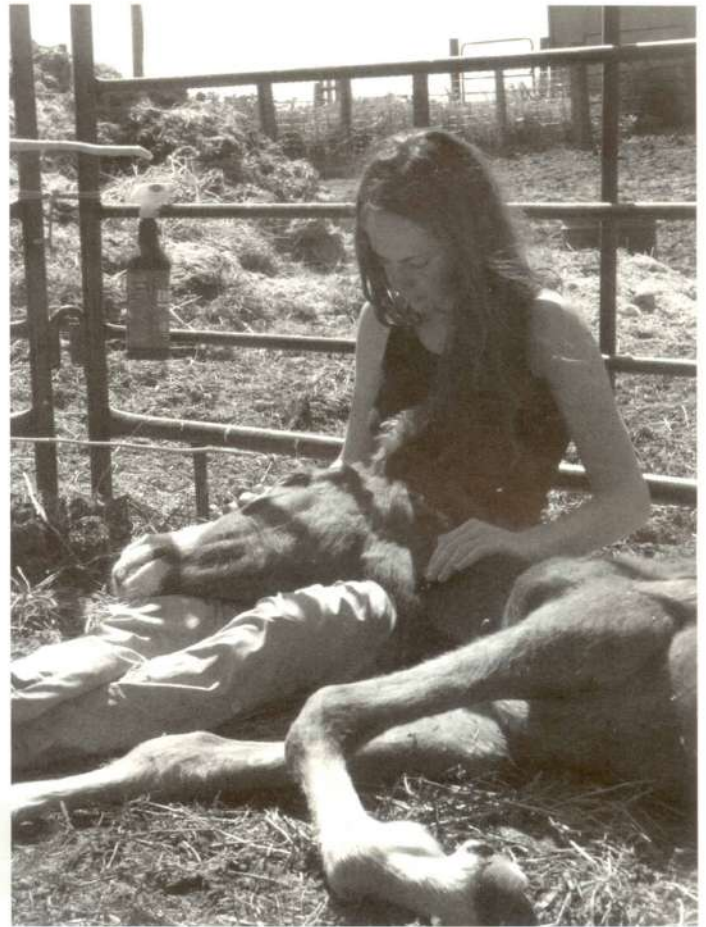
The young men and women also had the opportunity to witness a wild mare giving birth. By chance, the mare began foaling one afternoon. The whole group stood and watched patiently from a distance as the new foal stumbled onto her spindly legs and nursed for the first time. This was a rare treat for the group, since wild horses tend to seek isolated areas to foal.

"I have learned more than I expected about the behavior and character of wild horses." *Richard*

"Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to cuddle with a mustang baby girl! I have never seen so many beautiful scenes." *Abby*

"I have had so much fun working on your farm and with the awesome mustangs. They are so cool and majestic." *Marc*

ISPMB looks forward to hosting the youth in the Spirit of the West program for the summer of 2009.



Abby and the foal Princess Baby Girl.



Inochi gets hands on experience in feeding a foal





Photo by Wally Jarratt



Photo by Wally Jarratt

## Gifting Annuities

This opportunity affords you to make money by giving to the wild horses and burros. A gifting annuity takes advantage of favorable tax treatment that's available only to charitable organizations and their donors. Check with your financial advisor about investing in a gift. For more information, please call our office at 605-964-6866.

## Membership

Your gift of membership in ISPMB is vital to the preservation of our wild horses and burros. We appreciate your continued support. We have several categories of giving. You can help by passing our information on to friends and neighbors – asking them to become supporters.

## Gift an Acre

Each acre gifted will help us with the purchase of our own ranch where we will develop the International Wild Horse and Burro Heritage Center. The donor's name will be inscribed on a donor wall as a founding member of our Center. The cost of one acre is \$250



Photo of Chiricahua, from the Catnip herd, by Paulina Kurylonek



# Keep Them Running FREE



## A SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF MUSTANGS AND BURROS (ISPMB)



### SPONSOR A WILD HORSE .....\$150.00/ YR

Receive a beautiful certificate with your choice of a harem stallion, mare, foal, bachelor or stallion and the history of the horse and it's herd.



### SPONSOR AN ORPHANED FOAL .....\$500.00/YR

Each year we average at least two orphaned foals that require intensive care and milk supplements resulting in costs over \$2,000.00



### SPONSOR A WILD HORSE BAND..... \$1,000.00/YR

Receive a beautiful certificate with your band from the Catnip, White Sands, Gila or Virginia Herd. You will also receive an 8 x 10" colored photo of the band along with the history.



### SPONSOR A WILD HORSE HERD ..... \$5,000.00/YR

Receive a certificate of the wild horse herd, it's history, a beautiful 8 x 10" colored photo and a fabulous three day vacation at our ranch veiwing, photographing and interacting with the herds. This is a once in a lifetime experience!

***Your name will be inscribed on our donor wall as a founding member of our International Wild Horse and Burro Heritage Center.***

#### PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO:

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF MUSTANGS AND BURROS  
PO BOX 55 • LANTRY, SD 57636 • 605-964-6866 • TAX ID 94-616-9422 • [WWW.ISPMB.ORG](http://WWW.ISPMB.ORG)



# SAVING THEIR LIVES IS A RACE AGAINST TIME

Sponsor a Wild Horse and Save America's Wild Horses



There are those who are working for the eradication of the magnificent wild mustangs of America. They believe that all of our wild horses should suffer the depths of horror of the slaughter house.

Actual Quotes:

*"Slaughter them all"*

*"They should all be slaughtered, at least then they'll be going to good use like dog foods and glue."*

*"They should have been butchered a long time ago for the zoo animals and the French to eat."*

The ignorance and inhumanity expressed in these statements is shocking and yet the fact is that the wild mustangs of the United States are losing out to those who wish to see these magnificent animals rounded up and slaughtered.

At ISPMB we believe that most people would disagree that this should be the horrific fate suffered by America's wild mustangs and at ISPMB we are in a race against time to save the remaining herds.

ISPMB currently has 4 herds in protection on its 680-acre sanctuary in South Dakota. These are herds that would otherwise have gone to slaughter. We are asking for your help to save the wild mustangs—now...

- Donations specifically for hay
- Donations specifically to buy an acre to increase the rangeland for the wild herds
- Spreading the word that wild mustangs are in trouble and need protection

***Thank you for anything you can do to help!***

PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO:

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PO BOX 55 • LANTRY, SD • 57636 • TAX ID 94-616-9422  
**605-964-6866**  
**WWW.ISPMB.ORG**



# ISPMB

International  
Society for the  
Protection of  
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Burros



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