



Photo credit: Wally Jarrett

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs & Burros



Spirit of The Ancients

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2013

WWW.ISPMB.ORG

We Must Raise \$60,000 for "Your" Horses PLEASE HELP!

Severe Drought in North Central South Dakota May Finally End

Can we be assured that there will be local hay available for the horses?

With hay prices tripling over the past year and a half, it has been a struggle to find any hay available in the western U.S. We have been fortunate to have all of our hay coming 600 miles from Saskatchewan, Canada. When local hay is available which is rare, it is more expensive than shipping it from our northern neighbors!

Generally, most of the hay harvested in S.D. is used privately for feed for livestock and not sold. Numbers of livestock have risen and there are fewer acres of grazing land due to the high corn prices for ethanol turning grazing land into farm land.

According to a recently published paper by SDSU researchers, grasslands in the Western Corn Belt are being lost at a rate "comparable to deforestation rates in Brazil, Malaysia and Indonesia." In the past five years nearly 2 million acres of native grasses have been lost to corn and soy production.

Added to the above factors, last year due to the drought ranchers received only 25% of their normal yield in hay



The Catnip Herd, from the Sheldon Wildlife Range Photo by Terri Watson

and throughout the winter used up all of their stockpiled hay. Adding to the hay dilemma, our area was hit with snow throughout April and the coldest high temperatures on record for the month when grass should be coming up. The cold continued through May with little rain until May 11th further reducing growth of the grass.

In preparation for continued decreased hay production, ISPMB will begin to place up to 100 horses in qualified adoptive homes over the summer. (See Adopt One of Our Treasures)

NEW MEXICO AND OKLAHOMA SLATED TO BEGIN HORSE SLAUGHTER

Valley Meat of Roswell, NM has filed a lawsuit against the USDA in 2012 to open their plant to slaughtering horses despite widespread state opposition and denouncements of horse slaughter by top officials including Governor Susana Martinez.

According to reports, Valley Meat was shut down for inhumane treatment of slaughter animals. The slaughter house was fined \$86,000 by New Mexico Environmental Department for improper disposal of carcasses behind the plant. They also were observed shooting a bull in the head several times without rendering it unconscious.

The plant has filed lawsuits against three humane groups for defamation of character. We will keep you up to date on the progress of the plant opening.

After 50 years banning horse slaughter, on 3/29/13, Governor Mary Fallin signed into law legislation that passed overwhelmingly (SB-375 and HB-1999) in Oklahoma to open a horse slaughter plant. The law will become effective on Nov. 1, 2013 panning the way for a plant to open possibly in Washington, OK. The population of Washington is approximately 520 people and is located 26 minutes from Moore where the terrible tornado touched down.

The legislation was supported by the American Quarter Horse Assoc., OK Farm Bureau, OK Cattlemen's Assoc., and American Farmers.



Miss Little Ears



Thunderheart losing his winter coat



International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros

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PRESIDENTS LETTER ~ Karen Sussman

ISPMB's Conservation Program Essential to the Future of All Wild Horses (Your Horses Need Your Help!)

Your generosity has sustained "your horses" throughout the winter. Now they need you more than ever. With Princeton coming to help validate our many years of studies, we are inching closer to having science support our premise that helicopter roundups must end due to the disruption of the families and their strong social bonds, and loss of the inherent wisdom when aged stallions are torn from their families only to be replaced by younger immature stallions.

Current BLM management of wild horses as livestock has led to increased fertility rates, decreased genetic viability, and increased stress upon the horses. An important example is skewing the sex ratio having more stallions than mares. This creates an inordinate amount of stress upon the harem stallions and even more stress upon the mares as other bachelor stallions will begin fight to acquire dwindling numbers of mares. There will be an increase in foal mortality as mares feel the stress and stallions continue to fight for mares. Skewing the sex ratio was already tried in NM and BLM nearly lost all of the horses in the herd.

Because we (collectively) are not winning the battle to save wild horses in any other ways (such as law suits, public outcry, etc.) nor have we for the past forty years, it is more than critical that our Conservation program continues. We must continue to save rare and endangered herds from extinction. Each herd represents its own culture unlike other herds. Most importantly, two of our herds are irreplaceable and cannot be duplicated with any of the BLM herds that have been repeatedly rounded up. These are extraordinary herds as they have been isolated for decades of time before coming to ISPMB where they continue to be free from disruptions here. These herds give us a baseline of healthy behaviors which we predict generally that they are no longer found in BLM's herds.

Combining our Conservation program with Eco-tourism and your continued support will be the key to our success.

Our goal is to raise 5 million dollars to purchase a larger ranch where we will not have to feed hay. In the meantime, we must continue to raise \$50,000 monthly during these times of drought to sustain our hay costs. We can do it with your help!

WE MUST SAVE OUR HERDS WHO WILL ULTIMATELY SAVE ALL WILD HORSES!!!

BLM Institutes New Adoption Rule Will It Make a Difference?

After thousands of wild horses under BLM's care continue to be unaccounted for (Martha Mendoza, AP investigative reporter, 1996-97), another 1700 wild horses are missing. For \$10 each, BLM sold Tom Davis more than 1700 wild horses. It is hard to imagine that the BLM did not know where these horses would ultimately go. The major policy change is that no more than four horses can be purchased by an individual or group within six months without the approval of the Assistant Director of the BLM. This policy pertains to the horses that are over the age of ten and have lost their protection under the Act when the Burn's amendment was secretly inserted in the Appropriations bill in 2004.



Each truckload of hay coming from Canada = \$2,000 just for trucking. Photo by Terri Watson



Chante - Virginia Range filly



Magpie - White Sands
Photo by Terri Watson

SAFE Act to Stop Slaughter in the United States

How you can help!



Virginia Range Wild Horses

On March 13, 2013 the "Safeguard American Food Exports Act" was introduced in the 113th Congress which will end the inhumane slaughter of American horses in Canada and Mexico by prohibiting transport for purpose of slaughter and human consumption.

The Senate version S-541 was introduced by Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and remains in the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. The House version HR-1094 was introduced by Patrick Meehan (R-PA) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) in the house subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development and Credit.

So far 13 of 100 Senators have signed onto the bill and 105 of 435 Representatives. It is very important to write a letter to your Congress people in support of this legislation and to thank them if they have already signed onto the bill. To find out if your Congress person has signed onto the bill, you can call our office (605-964-6866) or go to www.thomas.loc.gov and insert the bill number where asked. This site will list all those who are supporting this bill.

Slaughter stopped in our country in 2007 when defunding of USDA inspectors was put into the Appropriations bill. However, 160,000 horses were shipped to Canada and Mexico in 2012 even though 80% of our population opposes horse slaughter. In 2011, the language for defunding inspections was clandestinely removed when the House and Senate Appropriation bill was reconciled between the two bodies of Congress opening the way for slaughter to begin in our country again.

Points to address in your letter:

- *More than 90% of horses going to slaughter are healthy and young.*
- *For thousands of years, the horses/burros have played an integral role in our lives. Surely we should have greater respect for these animals who have kept us safe and helped to develop our societies over eons of time.*
- *Horses are tainted with Phenylbutazone, a poison when eaten by humans. We should have a responsibility to creating safe food.*
- *American's find it deplorable to eat horses.*
- *Most important – slaughter is not humane but a cruel form of death.*

The horses need your help not only to encourage you to write to your Senators and Representatives but to encourage your neighbors and friends to write also! Let's get campaigns started in your areas!

Federal Court Sanctions BLM's Plans to Eliminate Wild Free-Roaming Horses from Wyoming Checkerboard - Population to be Reduced by 46%

On April 4, 2013, the federal court in Cheyenne, Wyoming has approved a consent decree between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Rock Springs Grazing Association (RSGA) that will wipe out wild free-roaming horses from the Wyoming Checkerboard, a two-million acre swath of public and private land in the southern part of the state.

Because ISPMB had carved out an agreement with the RSGA in the 70's, the court allowed our organization to become an intervener in the case along with the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign and the Cloud Foundation. The organizations were represented by the public interest law firm, Meyer, Glizenstein, and Crystal.

Specifically, the consent decree outlines the BLM's plans to:

- Zero out (entirely eliminate) wild horses from the Salt Wells and Great Divide Basin Herd Management Areas (HMAs).
- Sterilize wild horses in the White Mountain HMA, thus destroying the federally-protected wild free-roaming behaviors of the mustangs who are a popular tourist attraction.
- Cut by more than half the number of wild horses in the famed Adobe Town Herd Management Area.

In 1971, there were 303 wild herds of horses and burros identified and protected in our country. Before losing this important law suit, there were 179 herds left in our country. Now we can expect to lose these areas and more to come.

Sheldon- Hart Mt. National Wildlife Refuge to Eliminate All Wild Horses

Over the next five years, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services will remove over 500 wild horses and burros from their refuge. Although wild horses have existed on the refuge since 1800, the agency is not required by law to manage for them.

In preparation for this day, ISPMB rescued over 80 wild horses from the Refuge in 2004 when they first announced that the

Refuge would eliminate all of its horses. The horses made up of pintos, palominos, and sorrel horses, were used in the past for Calvary horses. Known as the Catnip Horses, they have provided ISPMB with important data showing what happens when there is constant disruption of harems due to the constant removals to achieve total elimination by the Refuge. Many

of these horses' photos have appeared in national magazines such as *Smithsonian*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *National Geographic*.

Although the Refuge will not pay for long term holding of these animals, payment for taking the animals will be paid on a per animal basis. ISPMB has received a request for a proposal from the Refuge.

Little Twister Survives All Odds ~ Karen Sussman

April blizzards and our first snows of the season played havoc on foaling this year. Thank goodness for seasoned mares who sheltered little ones from the raging winds. Our team headed out early after the latest blizzard to find a precious little foal on the ground unable to stand because of hypothermia. His mother was a first time Mom and little Twister wasn't shielded from the wind yet his mother stood over him protecting her little boy.

We turned on the heater in our truck full blast as we gathered this little foal off the ground. He already displayed lateral eye movements which indicated his critical condition. Off we raced to the farm house to place him in front of the fireplace wrapping him in heated blankets. His temperature didn't even register on our thermometer.

Three of us spent the entire day with the foal warming him gradually and then trying to feed him for the first time. We were pleased to announce that our neighbor, Courtney Dosch's cow, came to the rescue again with colostrums. Foals cannot survive without it!

I have never felt a foal so cold in all the time we have rescued foals. Like our foal from last year, Thunder Heart, this new foal had determination. He was going to survive. He was truly amazing as he learned to drink from his bowl without hesitation. The next week would be critical as he fought for survival.

After just rescuing a foal a month earlier who

spent two weeks in our house, little Twister went to stay with Sam, our ranch employee, who lovingly watched over the foal day and night for the next two weeks. With record cold temperatures, Twister had to remain indoors. His little white hooves already had a purple ring near his coronet band showing a lack of blood supply from hypothermia. It was important now to make sure that his feet received all the good circulation needed to keep his hooves from sloughing. His little ears were flopped over and it was just a matter of time when they would fall off from the freezing temperatures.

Finally the day came when it was warm enough for Twister to spend his first night in our foal barn with Akicita (Warrior). Soon they would become bosom buddies but always vying for who gets the most milk!

It is pure unadulterated joy to take the two foals for their daily walks. They race around each other bucking and jumping but always coming back for reassurance. Often times, I have an arm over each of them as we hike up the dirt road. Then they are off like unleashed locomotives.

We would love to find good homes for these precious little ones. Twister especially will be a unique horse as he must have the shortest ears on record! He doesn't seem to mind at all because he knows how very special he is. For more information on how you can adopt, please call our office at 605-964-6866.



Little Twister without ears



First week of Rescue – Sam and Twister with ears!



Akicita and Twister racing back

Adopt One of Our Treasures

We are pleased to announce that many of our beautiful horses that have been removed from their herds for various reasons, such as our orphaned foals and other youngsters, will be available for adoption this summer.

It is our goal to find permanent loving homes for our horses. They have already developed trusting relationships with people and their personalities are such that they will make perfect horses for children and adult beginners.

52,000 Wild Horses Remain Captive in BLM Pastures

Another long-term holding pasture was opened in Ennis, Montana where over 700 wild horses are contained. The horses will be released on 12,000 acres of private land in June. Of the 76 million dollar appropriation to the BLM, 62% goes toward caring for wild horses that have been removed from public lands, the lands where they should have the right to roam free and not be removed.

The BLM budget projection for 2014 is estimated at \$95 million of which 69% would be appropriated for 60,000 wild horses to be held captive in holding pastures. There

will only be 28,235 wild horses left on the range while 2,250 of these animals will receive birth control.

Knowing that 6 million livestock and 4 million wildlife roam the public lands, it hardly seems fair that BLM should have less than viable numbers of wild horses left.

Currently, BLM is considering spaying mares. How BLM manages our National Treasures, the wild horses and burros, is truly a travesty. This is nothing short of genocide of America's wild horses.

Princeton University Teams up with ISPMB to Study Equine Behaviors



Dr. Nunez photographing the curious Catnip Herd.



Karen doing her field studies with the Gila herd.

After spending thirteen years studying the social structures and behaviors of wild horses, ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman will be sharing her knowledge and joining forces with Dr. Dan Rubenstein's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. The research, identifying "functional" social behaviors in wild horse societies, will begin on June 4th at ISPMB's ranch where four wild horse herds reside.

Dr. Rubenstein is well known for his global work on behavior and decision making in wild equids, particularly with zebra sociality. Investigating how animals "network" and what determines "leaders" in animal society will translate well into the ISPMB studies.

Joined by Dr. Cassandra Nunez, PhD, currently a research scholar at Virginia Tech and past wild equid researcher at Princeton, Dr. Nunez has been involved in previous wild and feral horse studies in the US.

Princeton student, Lydia Anderson will be in the field for about 10 weeks this summer working on her senior thesis and identifying critical factors in wild horse networks. Joining Lydia will be Katarina Gerbert, a psychology student from Princeton.

ISPMB's goal is to provide a standard for recognizing healthy behaviors in wild horse herds. With this standard, we will be able to provide a "model" for managing wild horses on public lands which will allow the BLM to develop the best management strategies for America's wild horses.

Investigation Starting into the Disappearance of 1700 Wild Horses

In our last newsletter we covered the sale of 1700 wild horses in Colorado to a livestock hauler, Tom Davis, whose family has had ties to Ken Salazar's family, past Interior Secretary. Although Davis said he placed the horses in homes, the horses cannot be found.

According to ProPublica's Dave Philipps, investigative reporter, who uncovered the sale by the BLM to Davis, Colorado authorities are now finally beginning a criminal investigation. Colorado law requires a state brand inspection when livestock are sold or shipped more than 75 miles. According to Philipps investigation, brand

records show Davis received more than 1700 wild horses and shipped only 765 while just under 1000 have not been accounted for. Each violation of the brand law is a misdemeanor punishable up to 18 months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

ISPMB contacted the BLM regarding the investigation and BLM said there was no wrong doing on their part. However new rules for adoption have been implemented by the Bureau.

Currently the District Attorney Mahonee confirmed that the sheriff had officially opened an investigation. More to come!

ISPMB Partners with UBS Private Wealth Management

Take advantage of "doubling up" to make your donation work more efficiently for you and for ISPMB's horses. If you own appreciated securities, you can donate them instead of cash and receive the extra benefit of not paying capital gain taxes and also receiving the full tax deduction for your donation. Here's a quick example:

Annie purchases 100 shares of IBM in her portfolio in 2007 at \$100 per share, and her investment cost her \$10,000.

In 2013, Annie wants to help ISPMB save wild horses and decides to donate to the cause. If she were to sell her IBM position (worth \$21,000 now at \$210 a share), she would pay federal long term capital gain taxes and possibly state taxes on the sale as well.

The remaining proceeds available for donation after taxes would be \$18,800 (assuming 20% capital gain rate). However, if she were to donate the shares of IBM instead, she would not have to pay the capital gains tax on the transaction. Now the charity receives the full \$21,000 and Annie gets a charitable contribution deduction of \$21,000 as well.

To ensure this process is as simple as possible, UBS is providing their services free-of-commission to ISPMB. This way, the organization and the horses receive the full benefit of the gift.

Please keep in mind that we are offering these suggestions to make the most benefit of your generous gift. It

is important that you consult with your tax advisor in regard to taxation and deductibility.

For more information please contact:
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Gila Herd Photo by Terri Watson

A MUST READ!

Order Wild Horse Annie and the Last of the Mustangs today!

All proceeds benefit ISPMB
Velma's original organization!.

"This important addition to the history of mustangs and animal protection laws is highly recommended for animal lovers and Western history buffs." - *Library Journal*, starred review

To order go to www.ISPMB.org

Only \$26.00 which includes shipping.



Remembering Wild Horse Annie
Our first president 6-27-77
Anniversary of her passing.

Photo of Your Happy Horses



White Sands Family Enjoying Hay
Photo by Terri Watson

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Carrots for Jacque and Rita \$5
- Senior feed for Geronimo, Crazy Horse, and our elders \$18
- A bale of hay for one horse \$100
- Feed two horses for a month \$200
- Purchase a bag of milk for a foal \$125
- Sponsor a Horse \$150
- Sponsor an Orphan \$500
- Sponsor a Band \$1000
- Sponsor a Herd \$5000
- Feed four herds per month \$50,000
- Feed four herds for six months \$300,000

You see we can put any size donation to work! Thank you for your generosity!

ISPMB Historical Trivia

ISPMB, in partnership with the BLM Law Enforcement and through the Sentencing Reform Act, was responsible for increasing fines for killing or harassing wild horses or burros. Fees increased from \$2000 to \$100,000 per offense.

Special thanks to *Barbara Wheeler Photography* for donating many photos which were auctioned off on Face Book and E-Bay with proceeds going to purchase hay for ISPMB's herds.

SEARCH WITH GOODSEARCH

Please go to Goodsearch.com and sign up as your charity, the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros. Each time you do a search on this search engine, ISPMB receives one penny. It all adds up and can help sustain your horses!