

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros

Spirit of The Ancients

Newsletter

Spring 2010

www.ISPMB.org

THIS MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE YOU'LL EVER READ TO SAVE AMERICA'S WILD HORSES



passed in 1971 – otherwise there would be no wild horses left on public lands today.

Well just as important, ISPMB is conducting research on our four herds creating a model for wild horse management – something sorely needed since it has been 39 years that the Act passed without BLM knowing much about herd behaviors.

Our findings show that we may now be facing losing the extraordinary wisdom that was so inherent in the wild horse herds. This wisdom kept a very powerful social order intact with healthy behavioral modeling passed on to future generations. The loss of this wise modeling has caused the herds to double their fertility rates.

How did this happen? It has happened over the past twenty years since BLM went from gate cuts to selective removal. When BLM took all the horses that they wanted with gate cuts regardless of age, they still left many band structures intact that were never rounded up. With selective removal, BLM captures the entire herd or as many as they can and they separate the stallions from their harems and remove the five and under horses for the adoption program releasing all horses over the age of five. As the older horses are released, many of the older stallions never reclaim their mares because of the younger aged stallions taking advantage of an opportunity to steal mares. Often stallions as young as six will take mares. If that six year old stallion had a mentor who was only six when he was born, the educational process deteriorates. You can see over a period of 20 years how the mentoring and the education process have been threatened. Consequently, you see younger and younger mares getting pregnant by younger and younger stallions.

How do we know this! ISPMB has been studying herd behavior now for eleven years with our own herds. We were fortunate in the beginning that we acquired two of the healthiest herds left in our country – the White Sands and Gila herds. Neither herd had been gathered in decades of time leaving their social structures intact. We have the same stallions in charge of their mares now for eleven years.

As many of you know, ISPMB has been a leader in the field of wild horse and burro protection since our inception in 1960. Along with our first president, Wild Horse Annie, we were instrumental in getting federal legislation

It did not become apparent to us that we were observing truly the most natural and healthy behaviors in wild horse herds until we acquired our third herd (Catnip). The Catnip herd displays all the behaviors of horses that have suffered from constant removals. The US Fish and Wildlife Agency had planned the elimination of wild horses from Sheldon Wildlife Refuge where they originated.

We are at the pinnacle of our studies here in South Dakota. We will have Princeton University professor Dr. Nunez coming in June to collaborate with us on our behavioral studies. This is extremely exciting as ISPMB begins a new study – how to infuse healthy behavioral modeling in herds that have suffered from the ongoing devastation of their harem structures.

NOW THIS IS WHERE YOU CAN HELP! *I didn't think I would ever have to say this; but unless we get funding, ISPMB may have to disperse its herds.* This would mean the end of our studies and the end of our ability to stop the helicopter roundups on public lands. Yes, with our studies, we believe we have enough evidence to show that helicopter round ups are destroying the very nature of our wild horses on public lands.

ISPMB has one of the longest ongoing studies on wild horses that have remained intact without human intrusions. Our studies are creating the perfect model for management of wild horses on public lands.

WHEN YOU THINK YOU CAN'T GIVE – EVEN A GIFT OF \$5.00 WOULD HELP!

If every member gave just \$5.00, we would have enough hay for a month! If you could pledge monthly, we would have enough funding to keep our project going forever! Statistics show that only 3% of people respond to requests! We hope this time that we will hear from everyone. The future of all wild horses depends upon your call to action.



IMAGINE WHAT WE CAN DO TO SAVE OUR HERDS ON PUBLIC LANDS BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE GAIN HERE!



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

CRIMES AGAINST WILD HORSES AND BURROS

3-Strikes Ranch near Alliance, NE. Jason Meduna was found guilty of 145 felony counts for animal cruelty. More than 30 wild horses were found dead on the ranch with more than 100 suffering from malnutrition. Meduna received 40 to 120 months in prison and he cannot own any horses for 30 years. (2/24/10)

ISPMB facilitated in placing a beautiful stallion, El Mariachi and his adopted mare owned by Pam Nickoles. The horses now reside in AZ with Michael Blake. ISPMB also received three starving Virginia Range geldings until they could go home permanently with their owner.

Two Nevada men accused of killing five mustangs will go to trial on June 22nd. Todd

Davis, 44 and Joshua Keathley, 36 of Lovelock face up to one year in prison and \$100,000 fine if they are found guilty. The horses were killed 150 miles northwest of Reno.

Please note that it was ISPMB who was instrumental in getting fines changed from \$2,000 to \$100,000 by initiating a meeting between BLM Law Enforcement agents and AZ's 1 US Assist. Attorney. The Sentencing Reform Act of 1988 paved the way for inflationary changes in original fines.

11 Wild Burros Shot to Death near Lake Pleasant outside of Phoenix, AZ. A \$5,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of the perpetrators. Call 1-800-367-9152 with information. (2/2010)

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 per horse

Carol Allegretti
Virginia Aldridge
Pamela Austrich
Nav, Katie, and Mehra Balsara
Anna Bellino
Susan Benson
Heather Bell
Melissa Bergerson
Fazil and Cindy Bhimani
Randy and Kristie Billinger
Allen Blackwell
Angela Blackwell
Ginger Blackwell
Laura Blackwell
Scott Blackwell
Taylor Blackwell
Randall Bollig (2)
Rod Brown
Sandra Carroll
Renee Coleman
Jonica Craig
Sheila Cunningham
Debbie Davis
Kay Dias
Fiona Druckenmiller
Lynette Dumont
Nina Dupont (2)
Marty Gross
Ann Heisenfelt
Jessica Huwa
Joe Ferrari
Elsie Fletcher
Elizabeth Fromke
Debbie Gibson
Marisa Ingalls

Mary Kay Jans
Dawn Johansen
Anders Jovaag
The Mustang (Greg Jurgensen)
Melinda Kasraie
Eva Knodt
Susan Leutheuser
Rene Marble
Brent Marsden
Kay Marshall
Christine Mawer
Terri McCleary
Chris McManus
Hannah Meunier
Howard Miller
Liz McNey
Berva Noone
Kathy Parkhurst
Kathleen Parrow (2)
Cindy Piper
Stefanie Powers (23)
Steven Roark
Dr. Scott Robertson
Don Rosenthal
Kim Rudolf
Amy Rubenstein
Betty Scheldt
H. Ann Schultz
Esther Grace Simson (2)
Elmer Skogen
Anita Soper
Julie Springer
Linda Swidersky
Morgan and Marleigh
Swidersky
Ian, Riley, and Grady

Swidersky
Sharon Thoerner
Beth Townsend
The Truebloods
Maria Vitamante (2)
Frank Vitamante
Wasushara Co 4-H Club

Sponsor \$500 Orphan Foal

Jane Farwell

Sponsors \$1,000 per band

Donna Caplan (2)
McDonalds of Harrison (2)
Gayla Nelson (2)
Roger Nelson (2)
Helen Sullivan
Barbara Warner

Sponsors \$5,000 per herd

Julia Bailey
Helen Madeira
Robert Stang and
Merilee Cameron
Johnnie Forquer

Sponsors Gift-an-Acre

Fazil and Cindy Bhimani
Bob and Rita Krocak
Lyndon Kreisel
Merlys and Roy Larson
Carol Bancker Vietor

Lasting Memories – Garden of Hope

Estate of Jacqueline Waldeck
- \$5,000
Estate of William Heraly
Estate of Gene Christian

ROAM ACT PASSES IN HOUSE LAST JULY

On July 17th, Restore Our American Mustangs Act (H.R. 1018) passed in the House of Representatives with a roll call of 577 with the following breakdown:

Republicans:	Democrats:
Ayes: 33	Ayes: 206
Noes: 138	Noes: 47
Present but Not Voting: 7	Present but Not Voting: 2

If you would like to know how your Congressional Representative voted, please contact our office @ 605-964-6866.

ROAM has not passed out of Committee yet to be heard on the Senate floor. This will be the last year that the bill will stay alive. If the Senate does not pass **ROAM** this year, then a new bill will have to be introduced in the new Congress in 2011.

The **ROAM** Act will reverse the notorious Burn's Amendment slipped into the Appropriation Bill in 2004 allowing wild horses over the age of 10 to be sold to the highest bidder (slaughter) and horses of any age who failed being adopted three times. Three Senators involved in the silent rider were: Ex-Senator Burns (R-MT), Sen. Dorgan (D-ND) and Senator Harry Reid (D-NV).

ROAM will also restore acreage (19 million acres) to wild horses and burros and will allow for wild horses to be moved to lands other than the land where they were originally found. It also recommends the use of birth control on the herds.

For more information you can check the following site:
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/thomas>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Karen and Sultan

ISPMB has some of the most exciting news this year with our extraordinary behavioral findings and at the same time we face a frightening time with our nation's economy slumping. It seems there is always a counter balance for every action. We suffered a great drop in donations last January which was countered by hiring a professional fundraising team. This is the first time in our fifty year history that we have not been able to achieve our financial goals through membership alone.

The winter was extremely unbearable with several blizzards, loss of electricity, water, heat etc. for days on end and finally floods. The counter to the weather was the wonderful condition our horses were in and stayed in throughout the winter. Of course we fed prior to storms even if they had food. We did not suffer any deaths from the constant assault of freezing temperatures.

We had hoped that by this year that we could announce the acquisition of another ranch where we could grow our own hay. In February of 2009, we were promised not just one ranch but two. Of course we were ecstatic waiting to make the public announcement. However now more than one year has transpired and our donor's funding has not come through. We continue to wait. Many of our hay producers are still awaiting payment by our donor who so graciously promised to pay for all of our hay expenses last year.

ISPMB ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL BLAKE TO ISPMB's COUNCIL

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Michael Blake**, author of *Dances With Wolves* and a long time wild horse advocate, to fill a vacancy on our Council Circle. Last July, Michael hosted a reading and musical event in Tucson, AZ with proceeds going to ISPMB.

ISPMB APPOINTS ANITA SOPER AS TREASURER

Anita Soper has a long history of working in the non-profit world and comes to us with a great bookkeeping background. We welcome Anita to our Council.

Now we face having to purchase hay for the winter at a cost of \$100,000 and we still must pay for our hay from last year.

Throughout the eleven years of this project, I have had great faith that we are creating a new paradigm in wild horse protection and that we have done!

Of all the programs to save our wild horses on public lands, ISPMB's Conservation Center is paving the way for permanent protection of the BLM's herds by creating the model for management. We just must succeed.

To make sure we survived during the worst economical year, I personally guaranteed the acquisition of hay for last winter by putting my ranch up as collateral for payment. I have until November 1, 2011 to make a final payment of \$250,000 to retain my ranch.

You see I believe in our project and I am committed to saving all of the wild horses in our country. I hope you will join with me in making sure that we keep our Conservation Center moving forward and helping me save my ranch.

This requires giving when you think you really can't give. With the uncertainty of the dollar, it is even more important to make sure charities exist.

I am asking help from each and every one of you. Can you give any size donation? And if you can give, would you consider give monthly to make sure that we can sustain our herds? If we cannot meet our financial obligation, then all of America's wild horses will lose too.

Where there is a will – there is a way. Thank you for your continued support.

ISPMB ~ANNUAL MEETING JULY 24TH

We invite all members to attend our annual meeting of the Council Circle at ISPMB headquarters in Lantry, SD. The meeting will begin at 8AM on Saturday, July 24th and will continue all day until completed.

Please contact Karen Sussman @ 605-964-6866 if you would like to attend.

A TRIBUTE TO SULTAN



Only in the world of wild horses can one experience the greatness of a superior stallion whose strength is awesome commanding a beautiful harem of mares. This was our Gila stallion Sultan. He was the most dominant stallion of all Gila stallions. Three years ago, he suffered a devastating injury to his knee requiring his removal from the Gila herd.

He spent two years at our ranch receiving a lot of attention, love

and respect. His visits to Vet were received with great accolades for the stallion. He was wild but never caused a stir. He captured the hearts of all who came into his presence.

He was photographed by AP in 2007 receiving his first kiss on his nose by Karen Sussman. His face was the only place that he felt comfortable allowing us to touch.

We continued the beautiful relationship of mutual respect until last summer when Sultan started to drip drops of blood from his nasal passage. His respirations became noisy.

It was two weeks before our trip to Denver to the Littleton Animal Clinic to visit Dr. Toppin who serves on our Council Circle that Sultan finally gave in. This was the moment I had waited for in the past two years. I began to scratch his back and within minutes he let me rub him all over without ever flinching. From that moment on, I put my arms around him and told him what a great stallion he was.

We prepared for our trip to Denver with Sultan loading beautifully in the trailer. When we arrived the entire staff was there to greet us. They were prepared to take this wild stallion and were surprised to see how gentle he really was.

The next day Sultan had x-rays and an ultrasound of his nasal cavities. Since Sultan never had a halter on nor was he trained to lead, we loaded him up again to bring to the exam room where he walked into a stanchion.

He allowed Dr. Toppin to insert the scope into his left nares where he had no air flow. When the scope went into his right nares, Sultan simply stood on his hind legs and jumped over the stanchion with his bad front leg that could not bend. Everyone went flying in the room but Sultan just stood there and said that was enough. He didn't mind a tube up his nose when he couldn't breathe out of it but he did not want anyone to obstruct his breathing on the only side that was working. Sultan had no sedation for the procedure.

We loaded Sultan up again and took him to a small pasture behind the barn. Here after finding out that he had a massive tumor in his nasal passages that was inoperable; the decision was made to euthanize this great stallion.

I'll never forget the last moments with Sultan. Tears engulfed my face as I gave a final hug to this stallion who shall always remain the greatest of all stallions. He was as graceful in death as he was in life.

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF ISPMB

We are so grateful for our volunteers who have come from afar to help with our many projects.

During our terrible blizzard in December we were fortunate to have Myriam Moran and Dr. John Fine who spent one month here while Karen Sussman traveled to Montana and Arizona. They were troopers enduring one of the worst blizzards in SD in the past ten years. They shoveled out a tunnel out of the house to reach little Nagi Wachi, our foal. The snow drifted up to the very top of the roof. John is a writer and is currently writing a children's book about ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman. He has written numerous articles about ISPMB and has been instrumental in getting funding for our organization.

Special thanks to Judy Dunlap and Susan Leutheuser who came to care for little Lakota Cate frozen on an ice mound in January. She spent two months in our ranch family room.

Thanks again to Judy Dunlap and Mike Laughlin for coming in May to relieve Karen Sussman of duties so she could travel to Arizona to visit her children and grandchildren. The repair work at the ranch was awesome.

Thanks to Jane Marie Erickson who solicited her school to send "Quilts for Colts." ISPMB received many blankets.

Janet Lacetera was an angel to send apple treats for the horses and five horse blankets to help us through an extremely cold winter.

Always special thanks to Cheryl Rowe, ISPMB's Secretary who designs our E-newsletters and magazines.

Sonya Lee of Mowie Media receives special thanks along with Heather Collins (ISPMB Director) for redoing our website.

Debbie and Gene Jacobs spent nearly two weeks here hauling hay in their semi. Gene remained here manning a very critical horse, Santiago while Debbie and I drove another critical horse to Denver to be seen.

CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING REMOTE DELIVERY OF PZP IMMUNOTRACEPTION IN WILDLIFE

On December 16, 2009, ISPMB President, Karen Sussman, completed training under the guidance of Dr. Jay Kirkpatrick at The Science and Conservation Center ZooMontana in Billings for remote delivery of PZP to wildlife.

Currently ISPMB uses PZP on two of the four herds under our care. We are grateful to HSUS for funding our program since 2007. This was the last year 2010 that ISPMB will be funded by HSUS.

We have been able to sustain the Catnip Herd with fewer than six foals per year. During the first two years with only 82 wild horses, the Catnip Herd gave us 31 foals the first year and 36 foals the second year. At that rate, we could not sustain this herd.

We continue to observe the effects of birth control on our two herds. We have not seen any negative effects of immunocontraception.

WORLD PEACE AND PRAYER DAY

On June 21st, World Peace and Prayer Day will take place in Massachusetts at Blue Star Equiculture Farm, an organic farm that provides sanctuary to homeless working horses. Leader of World Peace and Prayer Day is Arvol Looking Horse, Lakota Keeper of the Sacred Buffalo Calf Pipe on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

Chief Looking Horse is a Council Member of ISPMB and advises our organization on Native American issues. Arvol travels the world in promoting peace, and protecting the planet and wild horses. He has also spoken at the U.N. He recently attended Madeleine Picken's event at the Native American Museum in D.C. and gave the opening prayer.

For more information on this event, please contact Pamela Rickenbach at info@equiculture.org. The event will begin on June 19th. You can call 413-289-9787 for more information.

We want to give special thanks to Jo Bunny who will be operating a booth at the event for ISPMB. She also is manning our Face Book page and doing a fabulous job.

Join us on Facebook!

If you can attend this event, we encourage you.

If you cannot attend, we encourage you to think about peace on earth and protection of our wild horses and the planet on June 21st

SHACKLEFORD BANKS PONIES TO BE MADE STATE HORSE OF NORTH CAROLINA

We are waiting to hear the final word from the NC lawmakers concerning the determination that the wild horses on the Outer Banks be designated as the "State" horse. We thank the wild

horse advocates in NC who have been working on protecting the Outer Banks horses for decades.

CALICO MOUNTAIN COMPLEX LAWSUIT DISMISSED

On May 24, 2010 the Honorable Judge Paul L. Friedman of the Washington, D.C. U.S. District Court dismissed on standing and mootness a lawsuit brought against the BLM by IDA.

The BLM removed 1,922 wild horses during harsh winter weather resulting in 97 adult horse deaths and more than 50 abortions of pregnant mares.

Approximately 600 wild horses remain on the Complex which is comprised of 550,000 acres in northwest Nevada.

Although the merits of the case were not ruled upon, the court agreed that the government's practice of sending wild horses to long-term holding facilities was likely illegal.

BLM HOLDS WILD HORSE WORKSHOP

In an attempt to quell rising tensions between advocates of wild horses and the Interior Department, Secretary Salazar has called upon a mediation firm, U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, to hear rising concerns from the groups. The first attempt toward resolution is the Secretary's proposal to develop a strategic plan for wild horse management.

A workshop will be held in Denver at the Magnolia Hotel on June 14th. The National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board meeting will be held the following day.

Mediation expert, Mike Harty will host the workshop. There will be a sixty day comment period following. You may comment right on the BLM's website at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2010/june/NR_06_03_2010.html

ISPMB will send out an alert with proposed comments that you may add to the BLM's website. We ask that if you have an E-mail account, that you please send us that information unless you already receive our E-newsletters.

The following seven points will be addressed:

- Sustainable Herds
- Preserves
- Treasured Herds
- Place Excess Animals into Private Care
- Communications
- Animal Welfare
- Science and Research

BLM Director Bob Abbey Reports That Euthanasia and Sale Authority will NOT be a part of the strategic plan for management of Wild Horses and Burros!



WILD PONIES OF THE BRONSON FOREST

In December 2009 the wild ponies of the Bronson Forest gained protective status with the passage of Bill 606 in Saskatchewan. No person can willfully molest, interfere with, capture or kill any of the wild ponies.

Karen Sussman was on radio at the Vickers Tree in Alberta Canada in May with more than two hours of discussion about behavioral stories of ISPMB's herds. You can hear the two programs at www.blogtalkradio.com/vickers_tree

With the ever rising costs of mail and print, we hope you will supply us with an E-mail address. Our goal is to print our magazine on line which would save ISPMB thousands of dollars in a year. All this money could then go to our horse projects.

Another easy way to help is to use <http://www.goodsearch.com/> as your internet search engine. If you plug our name into the charity of choice, ISPMB receives a penny for every search.



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!**



Photos donated by Dan Ronn and Rob Crothers

MUST READ BOOKS

No Fences

Written by Ray Davis a fictional story based on the plight of wild mustangs. Order from www.raydavis-nofences.com Ray has been a strong supporter of ISPMB and has supplied monthly donations to buy milk for our foals.

Twelve the King and Holy Road

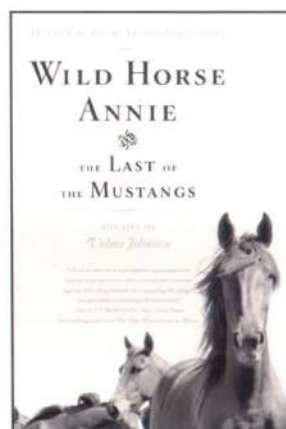
Author Michael Blake (Author of Dances with Wolves) has two books for sale with a portion of the proceeds assisting ISPMB: To order these books, please E-mail Hrymfaxel@aol.com and tell them ISPMB sent you.

Horses with a Mission

Written by Allen and Linda Anderson
Relates true stories of Equine Service
Please check page 78 – a story about Diana our Gila wild mare written by Karen Sussman.

Crazy Horse and Chief Red Cloud

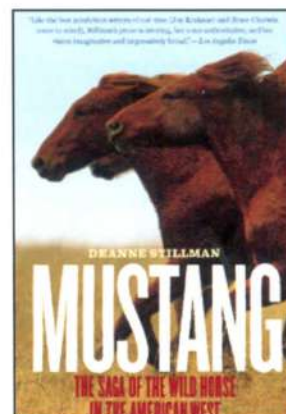
Author Ed McGaa has donated his books for sale to profit ISPMB. A great read for \$15.00 plus shipping. Please contact our office for a book.



Wild Horse Annie
– *The Last of the Mustangs*
Written by David Cruise and
Alison Griffiths

*This is a must read about
ISPMB's first president.*

A portion of the proceeds go
to ISPMB. Please check our
website and order.



MUSTANG
*The Saga of the Wild Horse
of the American West*

Author Deanne Stillman brings
the history of the horse in our
country to life. It is a great
read and a must have.

Order from her website at:
www.deannestillman.com/