



NEWSLETTER

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ISPMB PRESIDENT SPEAKS OUT AT SLAUGHTER SUMMIT



Karen Sussman,
Photo by Carol Nickoles Photography

Called the "Summit of the Horse" held on January 3-6 at the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas and attended by fewer than 90 people turned into what many humane groups termed, "The Slaughter Summit." ISPMB's president gave the sponsors, United Horsemen, the benefit of the doubt after reading about the group's intention to begin horse rescue. However, after the third day of vitriolic rhetoric attacking the humane groups and proposing only one solution, slaughter, ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman, spoke up! She chastised them for having only one solution. She mentioned that for the past two decades, 900,000 horses die annually in our country. The fact that we only send less than 100,000 animals to slaughter should be testimony enough that it wouldn't be difficult to find a solution for the 100,000 animals other than slaughter! (There are 9 million horses in our country and 1% die annually).

After speaking up, Ed Butcher of MT tried to denigrate Ms. Sussman by saying that humane people do not know what they are speaking about when they live in the cities and have little horse experience. Mr. Butcher apparently did not know to whom he was addressing since Karen has been riding since she was four and was in the horse industry in her adult life until she adopted her first wild horse in 1981. She has thirty years of experience with wild horses alone, managing four wild herds since 1999. It served only to make his argument incredible.

Ex- US Representative, Charlie Stenholm, from Texas was their Keynote speaker. Stenholm, known as the most conservative Democrat in Congress, is now a lobbyist for the horsemeat industry. Stenholm encouraged the participants to contact their local, state, and federal representatives to promote slaughter. As opponents, we should ask for election reform in our country. No Congress person should return to Congress as a lobbyist or have any influence on Congress once they leave!

Temple Grandin, a guest speaker at the Summit who has extensive experience in the slaughter industry, showed frustration when she admitted that slaughter houses continue their undesired practices when no one is there to inspect them. She stated the only way to end this is to have a third party watching the

slaughter house practices by video.

The Summit promoters suggested that they must put across to Congress and the American people that they are truly concerned about the welfare of the horse and in the same breath their eyes twinkled when they talked about starting slaughter houses in every state with auction yards right next door. Their premise of the summit and appeal to the American people was based on "unwanted" horses who are suffering in our country. It was obvious as they continued to speak that they see the horse industry as extremely profitable, slaughtering horses and selling them to China and Russia, that is if they can revive it again. There was no true concern for the horses but for their bottom line – profits.

The organizers of the Summit said it took them three years to produce this summit. It took ISPMB's president only five weeks to successfully organize the Wild Horse Summit in Las Vegas in 2007 which included leading scientists and wild horse ecologists and attended by more than 150 people! This should say something about this group's ability to pull off horse slaughter in the U.S.

Categorically, the American people do not want to see our horses slaughtered. It will never happen but we must be vigilant and continue to speak out with good hearts.

BLM DIRECTOR SPEAKS AT THE SLAUGHTER SUMMIT

Surrounded by body guards, Bob Abbey, spoke to the participants of the Summit. ISPMB was pleased with his response that in no uncertain terms the BLM will

not allow sale authority or slaughter of the horses in the holding pastures. He also stated that BLM will always have wild horses and burros on public land. His

soft-spoken words appeared to be sincere and were emphasized more than once. We applaud the Director for standing firm for wild horses!



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SLAUGHTER SUMMIT ORGANIZER AFRAID OF HUMANE GROUPS

In conversation with summit organizer, Dave Duquette, a week prior to the event, ISPMB's president was informed that the organizers were concerned about potential actions and threats by their opposition. Duquette said that the FBI would do sweeps of the hotel. After the first day, security guards were using wands on all people entering the conference room. Although a protest was carried out on the streets of Las Vegas by anti-slaughter supporters, it was done with respect and without incident. Was this action contrived

as a motive of the slaughter group to continue their attack on humane groups by terming them eco-terrorists? One certainly wonders. If only this group truly had the welfare of the horse at stake, all parties could have worked together for the good of the horse. ISPMB's president, Karen Sussman, had requested permission to speak at the Summit and came in good faith to work together. However, it was painfully evident that the only plan at this summit is slaughter, slaughter, slaughter!

PHIL G. GIRIODI A HERO TO ISPMB

Last July, ISPMB was honored to have Phil Giriodi as a guest to our site. Mr. Giriodi has 50 years in as a photojournalist and worked with CBS for many years. He received an Emmy for Individual Achievement along with 31 national and international awards. Although retired, Mr. Giriodi volunteers for

one project a year using his professional skills to assist a non-profit. We thank Helene Rand for referring Phil to ISPMB. He produced a five minute fund-raising video which shows the beauty of our property and the need for funding.

CATE CRISMANI APPOINTED TO ISPMB'S COUNCIL

It is with pleasure that we welcome Calamity Cate Crismani to fill a vacancy on our Council. Cate is the editor of "trueCOWBOY" magazine. The magazine made its first debut in printed edition last December. She has extensive experience with horses and lives in California where she enjoys her beautiful Thoroughbred mare, Raiderette. She will assist ISPMB in our marketing needs.

WE APOLOGIZE

Please accept our apologies for not listing our sponsors in this issue. We promise that we will have another newsletter out soon where we will have everyone's name listed. Our office is behind in getting our thank you notes out. We hope everyone will understand that we have spent the last three months making sure that our horses were prepared for this winter which descended upon us in November. We hope to get caught up in the next few weeks!

We have a great need in the office for help! If anyone would like to volunteer and you don't mind our winter- we will graciously accept. One must be skilled in power point! Please contact our office at 605-964-6866.

NEW CONGRESS CONVENES ALL PREVIOUS BILLS DEAD

As the new Congress convenes, all the anti-slaughter bills have died. This means that new bills must be introduced into committee, voted upon, and then brought before the House of Representatives. A bill in Congress that makes it to the floor will only last for two years. If it does not pass through both houses of Congress then it dies. ISPMB will be working toward reversing the devastating Burn's amendment to the Wild Horses and Burros Act. This amendment allows for horses over the age of ten to be sold to the highest bidder. Of course this means that they will be sold for slaughter. Although

this administration has taken slaughter off the table, we must remain active in reversing the Burn's amendment. It is interesting to note that Senator Burns from Montana suffered a crippling stroke just five years almost to the date that he slipped this rider in the Appropriations bill Thanksgiving 2004 which put our wild horses at great risk.

As wild horses are treated so it will be with the well being of our country. We must remember that our wild horses are true symbols of the freedom and beauty of our country.

PLEASE BE MY VALENTINE

Each year, ISPMB offers a great gift from the heart to shower upon your valentine! Again at half-price, we are offering a sponsorship of one of our horses for just \$75.00. *Your Valentine will receive a beautiful certificate of your horse with a photo of the horse wrapped in a heart!*

A card will be included carrying your Valentine message!

Your gift will help us in our effort to provide hay, carrots, Senior Feed, and all the necessities for our horses. We now have a good number of horses who are retired because they no longer can eat grass or hay. These horses require a special diet of Senior Feed at our Senior Center.

Dear Julie is now 28 years old and was rescued in 1990 from a pack string on a Dude Ranch in AZ where she was abused. Although she has had her teeth floated many times, there are just no teeth left that can munch on hay! She carries with her what all wild horses are known for – the intense will to survive at all costs! She loves life and loves her stable mate, Isis. In retirement both horses live in the barn in yards of wood shavings for their comfort. Although Julie and Isis came from our rescue program in AZ and have not ever returned to the wild, they live a beautiful life here with another 20 horses that came from our AZ rescue program.

Your gift also helps us with our foals that we have raised including Cate and Nagi Wachi (Lakota for spirit dancing). They just turned one now and are on special diets as they continue to mature!

Please consider a sponsorship and know your gift helps to save a life here!



BLM SAYS NO TO MADELEINE PICKENS WILD HORSE SANCTUARY

Unbeknownst to Ms. Pickens, BLM announced Friday that her eco-sanctuary for wild horses was rejected. According to Bob Abbey, despite numerous requests for a formal and detailed proposal from Pickens was not forthcoming. Other considerations by the BLM included the cost which would be \$25 per horse higher than other holding areas. The BLM said the law would also have to be changed so that private landowners could be reimbursed for grazing wild horses.

AP's article shows Abbey criticized the Pickens' sanctuary media campaign which he states that some information is "just plain false."

According to Ms. Pickens, the BLM never informed her of their decision until she read of it in the paper.

Pickens recently purchased two ranches in Nevada which consists of 28,000 acres of private land and 564,000 acres of public lands. The land has wild horses roaming freely on the public lands already. BLM is scheduled to remove many of those horses this year in spite of pleas from the public and Pickens to leave the horses alone.

ISPMB RESCUES THREE STALLIONS

Three beautiful bay stallions will be reunited with their Virginia Range herd before the end of January. The stallions were adopted in 2008 by a local trainer in South Dakota. Unfortunately, the adopter fell ill and can no longer keep his horses. These horses are under the age of five and have had little training since adopted. In an effort to preserve this beautiful herd and assist in this hardship case, ISPMB will eventually reunite these horses with their families.



VIRGINIA RANGE STALLIONS ARE REUNITED WITH THEIR MARES



We gratefully acknowledge Dr. Cassandra Nunez and Dr. James Adelman for their generous contribution which allowed ISPMB to purchase 6 foot steel panels to enclose the pasture containing the Virginia mares. The pasture was previously fenced in barbed wire which was not suitable to allow the stallions in with the mares. During the month of August, the stallions were released one and two at a time to join the mares. It was a glorious reunion for the stallions who banded up with their families once again. The project took several weeks as new stallions were released. This reduced the fighting for mares by the stallions. The entire process went smoothly and without incident.

This herd was received in 2007 when the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe removed the horses gifted to them by ISPMB. Along with the horses several hundred buffalo were removed to allow cattle grazing on their 22,000 acre ranch. The horses originated in Virginia City, NV and are descendants of those horses that our first president, Wild Horse Annie, enjoyed watching. These horses are not protected under the 1971 law although they received the first protection in the United States in 1952 under the Storey Co. law.

It is our goal to move these horses to a larger ranch this summer.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have settled into another tough winter here in South Dakota. When I moved here, I was told that people and animals living here are the hardiest on the planet! My granddaughter, Sienna, had to show me in her science book that South Dakota has the coldest winters and warmest summers. I guess that sums it up. Since the horses and I have moved here, we have experienced blizzards, tornadoes, droughts, floods, and recently a lot of frigid temps and snow. In spite of the hardships we all suffer, this state is one of the most beautiful with an array of stars at night that light up the sky like twinkling beacons. The open spaces, fresh air and assortment of wildlife remind me of

what it was like hundreds of years ago. On the last 100 miles to our place, I often count how many cars I encounter as I drive home from Rapid City. I am lucky if I see five cars late at night. This is a wonderful place to maintain four wild horse herds.

We have so many blessings to be thankful for this past year. I want to thank all of you for your wonderful support of our Conservation Center. We have so many generous donors who have requested to remain anonymous. We couldn't have made it through this winter without your help and the help of each and every one of you!

Many of you gave when you had very little to give. You realized how important it was to make sure that our herds had enough hay for the winter. Imagine surviving in extremes of temps that drop to thirty below. We here are eternally grateful for your contributions.

Now this spring we have a lot to accomplish. We will be looking at expanding and we will definitely need your help as we begin to grow. Our goal is to purchase another ranch closer to where we can develop our eco-tourism and have enough room to grow our own hay. We have identified the site! With your help we can accomplish this lofty goal.

ISPMB'S PRESIDENT TO GO TO WASHINGTON

Armed with eleven years of data that could transform the management of wild horses and burros on public lands, Karen Sussman will be headed to D.C. to meet with Director Bob Abbey. Since the first herd was rescued by ISPMB in 1999, it has been ISPMB's goal to create a model for managing wild horses in our country. In the forty years since the law passed to save America's wild horses

and burros, there have been few studies that understand the social dynamics of the herds. We have discovered how the bands work together for the good of the entire herd. We know why fertility rates increase when social structures are destroyed through repetitive removals. We see the stability of social structures when not disturbed resulting in a 10% growth rate or even less at times.

BLM states that herd growth is around 20%. This is the direct result of intrusive gathers separating stallions from their mares. It is our goal to assist the BLM in developing a plan that protects wild horses and burros so that future generations can enjoy these icons of our Western heritage.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO FRIENDS OF EQUINES

Thanks to George and Chris Jubic of Johnsonville, NY who so graciously transferred their admission fees to the slaughter summit to ISPMB. They also included airfare so ISPMB's president could attend plus one day of hotel costs. We appreciate their support of wild horses and burros and ending slaughter of all horses.

Working together can solve the major issues that confront the freedom of our wild horses and burros to exist on public lands.



MISS LITTLE EARS



Miss Little Ears

As temperatures dropped quickly right before the Thanksgiving holiday and blizzard winds blew, we had a surprising birth of Miss Little Ears. She is a beautiful petite bay filly who came at the wrong time in the wrong weather. With temps ranging 18 degrees as a high when she was born and with blizzard conditions soon to follow, Shawn, our ranch manager and I set out to capture the filly. It is never easy as one miss means that we will never catch her. We waited as she settled into the hay with her mother and her band. Our little farm truck pulled up and sat and waited until the ideal moment came. Shawn was prepared to grab her while I protected Shawn from her mother and stallion. This is most dangerous when a foal is just a few days old as Miss Little Ears was. The mothers will fight like lions to save their babies. Shawn moved in and Miss Little Ears stood up quickly and was a bit stunned as Shawn grabbed her and I pushed her mother away with the waving of hands. Shawn quickly ran to the bed of the truck where he sat as I drove off. The mother was confused as to what was happening and I whinnied from the window alerting her of her baby in the back. Mother rushed toward the truck as we pulled into the little two stall barn in their pasture that we use for such occasions. Shawn jumped from the truck with Miss Little Ears into the stall and then flew out as quickly as he came in. Mother rushed to her foal whinnying and making sure the filly was okay. It was a great reunion to see the pair in soft shavings right next to our stallion Santiago. Within the next two weeks, Miss Little Ears lost the tops of her ears from frost bite. Had we not rescued her, we could have lost her to the cold weather. Mom and Miss Little Ears are doing well now. Our little filly crawls under the stall separation and visits Santiago on a daily basis. Soon she will be too big to get underneath. Santiago, our Gila stallion, puts up with all kinds of antics – even when she tries to nurse from him! When spring comes, Mother and Miss Little Ears will be released back into the Virginia Range herd. Santiago will be headed to the upper pasture where he will enjoy the grass and open space. For now though, they make a happy threesome and Miss Little Ears has no idea that she came at a terrible time for foal survival. We will be reminded when we look at her cropped ears and will be thankful that this little precious filly survived.



Miss Little Ears and her Mom



Miss Little Ears snuggling up to Santiago



Spirit of The Ancestors

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF MUSTANGS AND BURROS

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OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • Carrots for Juan, Jacque and Rita | \$5.00 donation |
| • A bag of Oats for Santiago | \$10.00 donation |
| • Senior feed for Geronimo, Wamblee, and our Elders | \$15.00 donation |
| • A bale of hay for one horse | \$35.00 donation |
| • Feed two horses for a month | \$70.00 donation |
| • Purchase a bag of milk for our orphans, Cate and Nagi | \$100.00 donation |
| • Sponsor your very own horse | \$150.00 donation |
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