

Americas Mustangs & Burros

What's Left, The High Costs of Miscalculating And Will They Survive?

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Appendix III

Statement by Janet Little-Cold Creek Wild Horses

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My Statement Regarding the Cold Creek Wild Horses

In the spring of 2005, 2006 I spent many hours taking pictures of the Wild Horses. I had traveled all over the Cold Creek and Spring Mt. area to get the pictures this is my hobby.

By late spring and the Beginning of summer of 2006, I noticed that most of the foals had been disappearing, I called the BLM and told them that something is going on and the young foals are missing, I was told that they probably went up into the Mountain area, I questioned, without their mothers? The BLM said they would look into this. I contacted several people and nothing ever came of it.

Later that year, I became aware of the gather that was to take place here, (Cold Creek & Spring Mt.). When I heard of the gather, set for January 2007 I started to question why it was taking place, I was told that there are too many Wild Horses for the area, that there were about 250-260. I disagreed, with BLM. I told them their are off with there numbers there are only about 100-150 in the area. They stood strong with there number, I ask for some help with a gentleman I know who owned a helicopter company and asked if he would consider flying the Spring Mt area to count Wild Horses. He agreed and at the same time I had started, a petition to see if I received enough signatures that would stop the round up.

September of 2006 the day before I was to go up in the helicopter, I received a phone call from Susie Stokes of the BLM. She said she had been told of the venture I was going to take and in a polite attitude told me, I could be arrested with the pilot for harassing the Wild Horses. I call my friend who was going to do the flight and told him I did not want to get any one in any trouble, so I called it off. And in exchange for doing so, Susie Stokes set up for that Saturday to travel with the BLM and the Forestry and the one of the Wild Horse Commissioners for the State of Nevada to count with them the Wild Horses. I went with them and during the course of the day I seen about 80. They then told me about food and the water. I still disagreed with them. The Wild Horses were not thin and there is plenty of vegetation, and water that runs thru the area to sustain all the wild life here.

I reminded them that Wild Horses like all the wild life do have a natural die off of their own. They do get sick, hurt, or old and die. I told them I knew of 8 that had died just this year and that was the ones I knew about. How many more may have died that I did not know about.

I then asked about birth control either the shot or gelding the males or using the money that would be spent doing a round up which cost the tax payers close to \$250,000-\$450,000 for each round up. Alternatively, we could do voluntary feeding in the winters.

I told them about the elk in Jackson Hole, Wy. how the whole community came together and would provide the feed necessary for the elk to make it thru the winters. I was told that the BLM could not do that. The Wild Horses would not survive in the wild if they were fed hay then left to fend for themselves come Spring. They would all starve to death. I asked about an area, that is here that has grazing rights and if this could be utilized to let the Wild Horses stay, they said no that the grazing area I was talking about has not been used for grazing in many years. It seemed

that any solution was not acceptable, just round them up and put them into long-term holding so they can live the rest of their life in a closed up pen if they were not adopted.

The BLM told me they were planning on a meeting here in Cold Creek with the residents of why they had to do the gather and to get public opinion, well there was quite a turn out here and I do not think the BLM were expecting so many. Everyone there was against the round up that was to take place, even the news was there, channel 8 with George Knapp.

They went on to tell us that they want solutions to the problem not a lot of bleeding hearts, so we asked again why not use the birth control or gelding to control the problem of too many Wild Horses or substitute feeding. They told us all comments would have to be in writing. November 2006 I along with others, start to notice Herds of Wild Horses that we were not familiar in this area, they were thin and did not know their way around the area, they hung out quite away from where the water was and would go late in the evenings to drink. No one knew anything, were told by the BLM they came from around the area.

Well nothing changed and the round up took place in January 2007, this was the first round up I was involved in and what the BLM told me was quite different than what really took place.

First of all the public wasn't even allowed around the area the news was only allowed about 5 min. They were allowed to film just a few quick shots of the Wild Horses running the Black Herd which all of the residents were so familiar with that did hang out at Rattlesnake Mt and the new skinny herd that was the one BLM let the news film, and that is what the public has to see.

I with others from the Cold Creek area watched with binoculars from the front of one of the homes that sits close to where the round up was taking place. What I seen take place was criminal.

The BLM told me they never run the Wild Horses further than 5 miles, and they have an area where they are given time to rest, and get water and food before they put them into trailers and transported. Well the BLM and or contractors ran them 15 miles or more, then they crammed them into trailers with no water or food.

Then I find out that the contractor(man) who does all the round ups is the only one they ever contract and he is making tons of tax payers money he gets paid by how many Wild Horses he can get crammed into a trailer. If they die, that is ok their in. I was told that he was once convicted of shooting Wild Horses. After I witness all the horror, I know now why they do not want the public to see this. Because, Mr. and Mrs. Public would not stand for it.

We are told that anyone who comes to close will be arrested and they are armed with the Dept of Wildlife and Forest Rangers, they block the entrance to the roads.

Now I know that what I was being told, by the BLM was not as it really is. The film they showed at their so-called public meeting, and what nice things they tell the public takes place before and after the gather how the Wild Horses go to long-term holding in lush fields to live out the rest of their lives, not true at all, it is as far from the truth as it could be.

Summer of 2007, I see Wild Horses that I have not seen around the area, quite a few and start to ask questions again where are the new Wild Horses coming from, no answers to this. October 2007, the BLM was having an auction for adoption and I went to see it and how it works I had never seen one before, I was talking to one of the BLM employees about the amount of Wild

Horses that had shown up in Cold Creek. She told me they had dropped about 40 or so Wild Horses off during the summer. They have been given the birth control shot and they will be monitoring them to see how they do.

Spring of 2008 every thing seems as it should, then all of a sudden a I see a lot of Wild Horses that I haven't seen in quite some time actually I hadn't seen then since before the Round up in 2007. I know this because like I had mentioned before I have several pictures, well I am on my way to work in May 2008, and low and behold, I see a huge herd of Wild Horses. The residents always referred to them as the black and white herd, they are about 15 mostly black and white paints. They always hung on the east side of Cold Creek that was their territory. I had my camera out and called a few of the local residents who know this herd also, and I took pictures. Later that evening, when I returned home I found the pictures I had from 2005/2006 of the same herd. I notice over the next month more Wild Horses are showing up and now they are having babies, my estimate of how many would be about 30-40 more Wild horses then we had. Which is fine by residents here in Cold Creek.

My understanding was that I was told that once they are rounded up and fed that they cannot be returned to the wild because they will starve to death. Well I am here to tell you they are all doing just fine and they are in good shape and seem happy. Even though they had been detained for over a year and fed.

So why round up of so many, just so they can be returned. I was told they left about 80 Wild Horses from the round up in 2007, if they dropped off 40 in 2007 and another 40 this year isn't that close to a 140 Wild Horses and there are now about 15 babies which I was told they don't count or do they. This round up I was told was close to 400,000 just for the Spring Mt area.

So the way I see this going is they want to do a round up because someone is making a lot of money .It looks like they are bringing Wild Horses from different round ups, spend the money to transport from one Wild Horse area to another, to inflate the numbers so that a round up will be necessary. Because now there are too many Wild Horses and this, way they can continue to get huge amounts of tax payer dollars. My understanding is that the BLM was put in place to watch over and protect the Wild Horses and Burros.

From what I have seen in just the area I live in, nothing is for the better treatment for the Wild Horses or the Burros.

As a Wild Horse Advocate and United States Taxpayer would like to see this looked into, I do not think what we are being told is the truth at all, I think they have inflated the number of Wild horses not just here in the area where I live, but now I believe this is going on Nation Wide. Someone needs to do a serious audit with someone not associated with the BLM or Forestry or the Dept of Wild Life or Fish and Game, an outside contractor that has no reason to lie, then we need to start at the top and get this situation under control, we have a vast public with many ideas lets use the resources we have so the Wild Horse and man can all co- inside together.

Sincerely, Janet Little