

The Human Society of the United States
West Coast Regional Office
P.O. Box 417220
Sacramento, CA 95841-7220

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs & Burros
P.O. Box 55
Lantry, SD 57636-0055

July 31, 2007

RE: Nevada Wild Horse Range – Humane Treatment & Fertility Control Experiments

I am writing to express my concerns regarding recent events and management of the wild horses managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Nevada Wild Horse Range located in the Nellis Air Force Base near Las Vegas, Nevada.

I have written to the Field Manager of the Las Vegas Field Office and have attached a copy of this letter, which expresses my concerns regarding the authorization to remove wild horses from the Nevada Wild Horse Range on an emergency basis during the weekend of July 6-8, 2007, through the use of helicopter driving at a time when extreme temperatures were tying state records and other more humane options were available.

Additionally, it is my understanding that after the January 2004 wild horse removals, mares released back onto the range were treated with the experimental fertility control drug, PZP. The reported populations by the BLM of wild horses for the Nevada Wild Horse Range since administering fertility control is indicating that wild horse reproduction rates has since accelerated.

Therefore, I would like to strongly urge the Humane Society to investigate these unexpected results to determine if PZP is accelerating wild horse reproduction rates within the Nevada Wild Horse Range.

I would appreciate the courtesy of a reply and truly hope that HSUS will understand the importance of proper monitoring of this experimental drug since many wild horse herds across the West have been injected with PZP over the last several years.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Cindy MacDonald

Bureau of Land Management
Las Vegas Field Office
Field Manager Juan Palma
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130-2301

July 31, 2007

Dear Mr. Palma:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent removals of 178 wild horses during the weekend of July 6-8, 2007 at the Nevada Wild Horse Range located in the Nellis Air Force Base.

As the entire Las Vegas Community was being urged to stay indoors, hospitals were accepting admission strictly due to heat related health issues, community "cooling centers" had been established throughout the city and people were urged to pay close attention to their animals, you approved of a capture plan through the use of helicopter driving to run the wild horses for 2-10 miles in heat that was tying state records.

As the Field Manager overseeing the operations, I must question your commitment to the humane handling of America's wild horses that you have been charged with preserving and protecting.

What makes this decision especially egregious is that, as a Field Manager, you had received a copy of the required annual hearing for the State of Nevada regarding the use of helicopters and motorized vehicles to capture wild horses on public lands that clearly showed many citizens are opposed to this form of capture methods if alternatives are available.

According to the press releases, the Las Vegas Field Office reported they were compelled to remove the wild horses on an emergency basis because of a complete lack of water in the area and prior to the helicopter driving, water hauling was being conducted to prevent the wild horses from perishing.

If no other water source was available and as a result, wild horses were forced to drink from the water BLM hauled, why was the bait trapping capture method not employed as they came to drink for the two weeks prior to being driven by a helicopter?

Will you please explain to the Las Vegas Community why you believed it was acceptable and humane to drive our wild horses for miles during some of the highest temperatures ever recorded when a reasonable alternative could have been easily utilized?

In addition to using the water capture method being significantly more humane, not only did the taxpayers get to fund water hauling, which should have been sufficient to complete capture operations in a much more humane manner, the hiring of a helicopter crew who commands tens of thousands of dollars was also unnecessarily employed. Is the Bureau's budget so unlimited that it no longer considers the issue important of financial waste of taxpayer dollars?

One other issue of significant concern is the wild horses reported population for the Nevada Wild Horse Range.

The BLM removed wild horses in the Nevada Wild Horse Range in January of 2004 and it is my understanding that the mares returned to the range were treated with the experimental fertility control drug PZP, which is designed to slow reproduction.

Yet, BLM has reported extremely high reproduction rates for the wild horses since the injections. Based on the evidence, it appears that the fertility control treatment is *accelerating* wild horse reproduction versus inhibiting it. Considering many wild horse herds across the West have now been subjected to this treatment, I am going to request that the United States Humane Society being involved in monitoring and reporting on the unplanned reaction and results of this experimental drug.

I would appreciate the courtesy of a reply on these very serious issues of humane handling and the use of wild horses in experimental drugs that appear to be causing contrary reactions.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Cindy MacDonald

cc: The Humane Society of the United States
International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros