

Wild Horse Sanctuary

P.O. Box 30 • Shingletown, CA 96088

Phone/Fax (530) 474-5770

www.wildhorsesanctuary.org

December 2010

Dear Friend,

This fall season has rushed upon us with some interesting weather: high winds, then record high temperatures, and on to chilly all-day rainstorms. Some of the winds were so strong that the roof on our barn reminded of us of the classic movie, *Gone with the Wind*! We are very thankful that no people or animals were harmed from falling debris, but our barn is now in dire need of a “roof raising.” This is where we store all of the hay to feed our wild horses and burros throughout the year. With the rainy and snowy season upon us, replacing the roof is a top priority!

Our annual Open House in August was another wonderful day full of fun activities for young and old alike. The Open House was well attended and best of all - our raffle raised much needed funds to purchase some of the hay we will need for the long winter feeding season. The success of our Open House is due to the hard work and dedication of our incredible volunteers! Open House has become a highlight for me every year as I am able to meet new friends for the Wild Horse Sanctuary and visit with supporters. For some of our guests it is their first introduction to the Sanctuary and our life saving work on behalf of the mustangs, while others I talk to have been supporting the work we do for more than 30 years! How grateful I am and what a special day it was! I thank everyone who helped, because without you our horses would not have their beautiful home here.

While we enjoyed mild weather at our Open House, Adoption Day in October was a wet one, but most of our 26 foals and a two-year-old happily found homes with new loving families! If you were unable to attend Adoption Day this year and are interested, we still have several beautiful babies looking for a place to call home. You can view pictures on our website, www.wildhorsesanctuary.org (under, “how you can help, adopt a wild horse”).

With November comes the end of our scheduled activities. Now we are looking to keep everyone well fed, happy, and healthy. We are also looking for help to restore our wind-whipped barn and have a number of other winter maintenance projects. We'd love to hear from you if you can help with labor or materials.



Volunteer, Deena Shorey, poses with a newly gentled filly.

Since my last writing the future of the wild mustang continues to be perilous as S. 1579, the Restore Our American Mustang (ROAM) Act, **continues** to sit idly in the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. If passed, the amendments included in the ROAM Act would prohibit the BLM from euthanizing healthy horses, implement reliable scientific data and research to aid the BLM with realistic equine management, and restore the land to the wild horses that belong on it. In order to make these vital changes happen, public support is needed now more than ever. Without an outcry from the people, the wild mustang will continue to be subjected to terrorizing round-ups and a dismal existence in inadequate holding facilities before their ultimate extinction. (Please see our insert for what you can do.)



Mares and foals graze peacefully in their safe haven here at the Wild Horse Sanctuary.

We are so thankful for the generosity you have shown that makes this refuge for wild horses here at the Wild Horse Sanctuary possible. There is so much to concern us all in today's recovering economy. As we struggle with funding and the uncertainty of what tomorrow may bring, we realize just how precious life is. Knowing our horses are content to munch a little hay and just be, helps us be content too.

Warm regards

Dianne

Dianne

Wild Horse Sanctuary Contribution & Order Form

Yes, I want to help!
Enclosed is my check for:

- \$50 to feed one unsponsored horse for one month.
- \$114 to care for an unsponsored horse for 3 months.
- \$456 to sponsor a horse for one year.

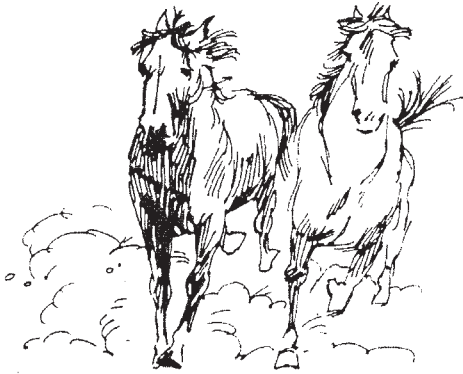
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**MAIL TO: Wild Horse Sanctuary
P.O. Box 30
Shingletown, CA 96088-0030:**

Make checks payable to the Wild Horse Sanctuary. Contributions are tax deductible.



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Urgent Update – Wild Horses on Public Land

For decades the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been removing horses from their rightful home on public land, that trend has escalated in the past few years increasing alarm regarding the future of all wild horses and burros.

As the BLM continues to round up wild horses and burros on public land, using statistics that are outdated, invalid or inaccurate, existing herds are reduced to dangerously low numbers that in instances place them below viable reproduction levels. In time those herds will disappear.

The claim used for removal of wild horses is that the horses are a burden on the public land when the truth is that horses have significantly less impact than the livestock that remain. Cattle and sheep are responsible for approximately 70% of all grazing on public land. Wildlife gets only 25% and wild horses only eat less than 5% of forage available to all species.

In August 2009, Senator Robert Byrd (D-WV) sponsored legislation that would restore protections that have been taken away from the original 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. That **proposed legislation, Bill S. 1579 Restore Our American Mustang Act (R.O.A.M.) is now languishing in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.** If passed, among other protections, the Bill would restore to wild horses and burros 19,003,349 acres of habitat that was established for them under the 1971 Act but has been taken from them since then.

Noted wildlife ecologist and longtime wild horse advocate, Craig Downer states, *“As of January 2010, BLM is engaged in zeroing out sparse wild horse and burro populations from millions of their legal acres and reducing the remaining herds to crippling low, non-viable numbers. This has caused widespread public outcry, lawsuits, and bills. Yet no legal check has yet been made on BLM.”*

What can you do to help?

For a comprehensive overview of the situation, visit the Animal Welfare Institute website at www.awionline.org, click on Government/Legal affairs and then on Wild Horse & Burro Protection. You will find background information, current and proposed legislation, suggested wording for emails and letters to your elected officials, along with additional resources.

1. Send an email to President Obama (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>) and the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar (feedback@ios.doi.gov) calling for a moratorium on all roundups until the wild horse program has been evaluated from top to bottom.
2. Next, send an email to your U.S. Senators urging them to cosponsor the Restore Our American Mustang Act (S. 1579) to help clean up the BLM's wild horse program.
 - a. Letters to Senators should be addressed to: The Honorable (name here), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. Letters sent via U.S. mail make a stronger statement than emails but are subject to significant delays due to security concerns. We suggest sending your letters in both formats (faxing is also a good alternative). To find your members of Congress, call the Congressional Switchboard at 202-224-3121 or visit www.congress.org and enter your zip code.

Also contact the: State Energy & Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-4971 or by fax at: 202-224-6163

Email all 23 committee members at: <http://energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=contact.home>