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Wild Horses

Wild Horses are much more capable than other grazing animals of processing dry, coarse grasses, and other vegetation without overtaxing their metabolism. This prevents fuel buildup and decreases major fires. In the Virginia Range of Nevada's Storey County, Wild Horses are valued by the citizens, both for their beauty, and for consuming dry, fire-prone vegetation whose combustion jeopardizes their homes. In the late 1950s, Storey County became the first governmental body in the United States to pass a law protecting its Wild Horses, as it appreciated these free spirits and their many ecological services. In 1971, Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act to protect the remaining Wild Horses in America. However, it has been a struggle to keep the Act in place. There are many who do not want Wild Horses or OUR public lands and, especially, do not want them competing with livestock for grazing.

Wild Horses are our western heritage and a valued natural resource. Visitors from all over the United States, and the world, come to see them. This means tourism, and much-needed cash coming into the state of Nevada. Tourists do not want to see Wild Horses confined only in fenced-in areas. They want to see them in their natural state, THE WILD, and they will pay to do it. We must protect and preserve the freedom of our remaining population of Wild Horses for future generations to experience and appreciate. Unfortunately, they are some of the most persecuted animals in this country. Once numbering in the millions in the American West, now only a few thousand remain.

ASSEMBLY NATURAL RES., AGRICULTURE & MINING

DATE: 03/05/03 ROOM: 3161 EXHIBIT R-1 of 2

SUBMITTED BY: Julie A. Keller

The Wild Horse Preservation League is always open to new ideas and voices in the struggle to keep OUR Wild Horses free roaming and kept from slaughter and eventual extinction. However, we desperately need your help. YOU are the people, YOU own our public lands. Please e-mail or call the numbers listed below if you wish to voice your opinions to governmental officials on these and other issues:

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR

Gale Norton - (202) 208-7351 - DC

Gale.Norton@ios.doi.gov

NV CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

Governor Kenney Guinn - (775) 684-5670 - NV

www.state.nv.us Contact Us Gov.

U.S. Senator Harry Reid - (775) 882-7343 - NV

(202) 224-3542 - DC

Http://reid.senate.gov

U.S. Senator John Ensign - (775) 885-9111 - NV

(202) 224-6244 - DC

Http://ensign.senate.gov

U.S. Rep. Jim Gibbons - (202) 225-6155 - DC

(775) 686-5760 - NV

www.house.gov/gibbons

NV NATURAL RESOURCES LEGISLATORS

Sen. Mark Amodei - (775) 684-1470 Leg.

(775) 882-0202 Ofc.

Mamodei@sen.state.nv.us

Sen. Margaret Carlton - (775) 684-1431 Leg.

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Sen. Bob Coffin - (775) 684-1427 Leg.

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Sen. Mike McGinness - (775) 684-1442 Leg.

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Sen. Dean Rhoads - (775) 684-1447 Leg.

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Sen. Mike Schneider - (775) 684-6502 Leg.

(702) 876-5121 Home

Mschneider@sen.state.nv.us

Sen. Ray Shaffer - (775) 684-1424 Leg.

(702) 647-8683 Home

er@sen.state.nv.us

WILD HORSE PRESERVATION LEAGUE

To Protect and Preserve Our
Wild Horses



“Save our Wild Horse Bands
and our Wild Horse Lands”

For more information, please contact:

Bonnie Matton at (775) 241-0640

Mattonco@prodigy.net or

Arlene Sillings at (775) 246-4083

Alsdlis@aol.com

Evolution of Modern *Equus Caballus* (Horse)

Ancestors of modern horses inhabited ancient plains and primeval forests of North America, beginning within Epoch, 57 million years ago. Equidae, the family of horses, comprises some of the oldest mammals known on earth.

Horse evolution took place in North America, not in a smooth, gradual, or straight-line fashion, as had been previously thought, but through a complex, branching process. Almost all side branches of the horse family became extinct, but one branch survived and kept growing, changing into the genus *Equus*, which includes modern horses, zebras, and asses. It is the only surviving genus in a once diverse family of horses. Since modern *Equus caballus* evolved on the North American continent, horses are an indigenous wildlife species.

The Wild Horse Dilemma

As early as the 1900s, two million horses roamed wild in North America. But that time exists only in the pages of history. Progress has reduced the Wild Horses' range today, replacing grassland with farms, ranches, roads/highways, and cities. Many remaining Wild Horses now run through publicly-owned lands, and on private sanctuaries set-aside for them - small corners of the range they once reigned. Since 1980, well over four million American horses have been slaughtered in the U.S., and Canada, with their meat exported for human consumption.



The Founding of the

Wild Horse Preservation League

In 2001, Wild Horse enthusiasts rallied together to save "Two Socks," a stately Bay stallion, when he was captured by the Nevada Department of Agriculture. As his sire before



him, "Two Socks" had roamed free in a valley, just east of Dayton, Nevada, for over 20 years. With his great temperament, gentle nature and excellent confirmation, it was a pleasure to see him though he never allowed anyone to touch him. He is the epitome of the best in a Wild Horse. He not only throws beautiful foals but ones that can survive and thrive in the wild. Residents were horrified when he was captured. Knowing a horse that old, especially a stallion, would never find an adopter and, undoubtedly, be sent to auction for slaughter. The Wild Horse Preservation League was quickly formed to find an immediate care giver for him locally. The Department of Agriculture's policy is, once Wild Horses are caught, they are never allowed to run free again. Though this great horse has lost his freedom, he did not lose his life. "Two Socks" is our "Poster Child," and the impetus for causing people to finally speak out, and be heard on the plight of OUR Wild Horses.

The Wild Horse Preservation League is always open to new ideas and voices in the struggle to keep our Wild Horses free from slaughter and eventual extinction. We do not wish to see them all put in a limited number of sanctuaries. However, we need your help to keep their freedom on OUR public lands. We have started a membership of \$10 a year, for the support of these goals. Charitable contributions are accepted and tax deductible. We may be reached by phone or e-mail as listed on this brochure.

Present Goals

The Wild Horse Preservation League, is a non-profit 501 (C) 3 organization dedicated to preserving these magnificent creatures. Wild Horses are historical animals who represent to us, and to the rest of the United States, the spirit of freedom and independence we so cherish. Our goal is to be the "VOICE" to, and for, the public on issues related to Wild Horses, which matter to us all. Remember, we can - and will - make a difference. We as an organization have already started.

- We are trying to obtain true and correct numbers of Wild Horses and livestock on public lands.
- When necessary, we contact the responsible governmental agencies to inform them they cannot break laws regarding OUR Wild Horses, as they are their protectors not their owners. And, we will report these discretions to the press and the public.
- League members have organized a Bill Watching Committee to monitor pending laws in Legislation relating to Wild Horses, livestock, open space and water rights. When necessary, we will testify.
- We are petitioning for a Referendum to get the Wild Horse named an official state animal, by allowing the people to vote on the issue.
- We are petitioning to get a Wild Horse DMV license plate.
- We are investigating the BLM's proposal to relax rules governing ranchers who have grazing allotments on public lands, enabling them to have "reserve common allotments" while their allotments recover from overgrazing.
- We are working with a renowned artist to submit a design in the competition for the upcoming 2006 U.S. Nevada quarter.