



*Wild Horse Observers Association (WHOA)
A public 501 c3 non-profit corporation
PO Box 932
Placitas, NM 87043
(505) 867-5228, (505) 610-7644
<http://whoanm.org>*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

5/12/2014

STATE OF NEW MEXICO WORKS BEHIND SCENES TO HELP THE BLM EUTHANIZE AND MASS COMPOST BLM WILD HORSES. ON TRIBAL LANDS?

WHOA is alarmed at the movements in New Mexico toward killing the 50,000 Wild Horses in the BLM holding pens.

~ Karen Borch, a member of the Animal Protection group for over twenty years and a board member of WHOA for almost 10 years states: ~

"Last summer I was at a Governor Martinez' Task Force/Working Group meeting on Horse Overpopulation, . . . Oddly enough, the Animal Protection group gave a presentation regarding TRIAGE euthanasia and COMPOSTING. This is in STARK CONTRAST to their promotion of equine protection on their website. Its' members cannot be aware that this hideous plan is even being considered."

"I also remember distinctly hearing at that meeting that the exact sum of \$200,000 was needed for establishing this heinous "solution." No disclosure regarding the plans, the timing, what it entailed or any specifics. Shrouded in secrecy this plan may be going forward but who knows? The public deserves to know. . ."

The Governor of New Mexico's pro-slaughter plans¹ and the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)² with the Navajo Nation both include TRIAGE, which is Euthanasia and Mass Composting.

IMPORTANTLY: The MOU also states that the Navajo will set up a "Humane Equine Management Program" but only AFTER their horse population is already down to a "reasonable" level (by removal to sale/horse slaughter) AND, AFTER "sufficient funds are secured".

QUESTIONS: If all of the "excess" Navajo horses are to be sold/slaughtered FIRST,
What need is there for FUNDING this "Humane Equine Solution" which includes
TRIAGE/COMPOSTING?

WHOA FEARS THIS ANSWER: Euthanasia and Mass COMPOSTING of all the wild horses in
BLM holding pens on tribal lands where the US Courts cannot reach.

HERE's WHY:

1. In 2011 Jan 25th, Ken Salazar secretary of the Interior kicked off the Cooperative Landscape Conservation (CLC)³ to deal with the effects of climate change on "resources". His plan?

¹ [Unwanted Horse Population <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/handouts/Unwanted%20Horse%20Population.pdf>](http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/handouts/Unwanted%20Horse%20Population.pdf)

² Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) obtained from Governor Richardson by Jessica Perdue Guttman.
http://whoanm.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/MOU_4.pdf

³ Cooperative Landscape Conservation (Per NN Resolution CJY44 as brought to light by Wild For Life Foundation)
<http://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2012/highlights/upload/Cooperative-Landscape-Conservation.pdf>

To work with “*other Federal Agencies, State, and tribal governments, and non-governmental organizations...on conservation of the Nation’s . . .ecosystems*”

2. In 2011 June 30th, Governor Martinez’ NM Livestock Board (NMLB) presented “Unwanted Horse Population” to the NM Legislature and an Animal Protection Group. Over half of this presentation is devoted to federal horses in BLM holding pens, the cost to maintain, and tribal horses: Her Proposal?

Slide no. 20

“Public/private funded equine facility to accept and **process⁴** unwanted equines (**proposed**).”

Slide no. 21

“Fund an equine facility that would **triage** the **unwanted/rescued** cases.”

“**Humane Slaughter** –provide domestic protein source for zoo animals and raptors..”

3. The Governor **has feigned to be anti-slaughter**, however has pushed for horse slaughter and to scapegoat the First Americans FOR horse slaughter through her Working Group on horse over population by:
 - a. Not ending kill buyer dumping in New Mexico and allowing horse dumping on tribal and Pueblo lands which PUSHES tribes towards slaughter.

“Tribal representatives stated if a reservation has a major interstate or highway bisecting it, that reservation becomes a dumping ground for unwanted . . . horses.”⁵

“Kill buyer horses rejected at the Mexican border are taken to ranches for fattening and then taken back to slaughter.”⁶

“Horses rejected at the border are escorted to the appropriate location.”⁷

“The Navajo Nation used to use birth control but gave up because of all the dumping by white ranchers.”⁸
 - b. Parroting astronomical estimates of the number of horses on Tribal lands without an actual count.^{9 10}

⁴ Red emphasis added. Please note: Process is a word which usually signifies killing or slaughter.

⁵ http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:mKh-db3jgagJ:www.envlc.org/enlc_about_us/newsletters/feb_mar_2011.pdf+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us

⁶ Stated by the former NM State Veterinarian at a meeting at the Albuquerque Public Library in with the NM Horse Rescues in 2012. Vice president of WHOA, Betty Pritchard was present.

⁷ Stated by the former NM State veterinarian at the Governors Working Group on Horse Over population on 6/4/2013.

⁸ Two hour telecon with a Navajo tribal member who wishes to remain anonymous in early 2013.

⁹ “Leland Grass Navajo Nation “never did a survey”, Estimates 11,000 Untame, Not 70,000” Oct 29th 2013

<http://whoanm.org/wordpress/?p=218plus> Also http://www.navajo-nsn.gov/Archived_Webpages_News_Releases/2014/mar14_combined.pdf states 7,000 Navajo horses rounded up so far.

¹⁰ NM Livestock Board PZP Registration Disallows Use on NM Horses -

<http://whoanm.org/wordpress/?p=109> WHOA Inspection of Public Record Request to NM Dept. of Agriculture (IPRA) Attachment 7, no. 21, All documents showing counts, census, inventory, numbers of horses...” “No such documents exist”.

- c. Scapegoating First Americans and poor people as the cause of horse dumping again using astronomical numbers with no basis¹¹ in New Mexico while hiding the reality of kill buyer dumping of horses rejected from slaughter at the Mexican border¹².
4. The Governor has refused to ban horse slaughter legislatively and refused to end transport to slaughter through New Mexico by blocking HB121¹³ this legislative session. Banning transport to slaughter through NM would have also closed NM's border to Mexico for horse slaughter and effectively ended kill buyer dumping in New Mexico.
5. TRIAGE has been promoted through the Governors working group and is now being promoted through the MOU of which the same Animal protection group on the Governors working group is part of the MOU per Press releases, though they are not listed on the MOU proper.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

While euthanasia and composting may seem a better alternative than horse slaughter for human consumption for the nation's wild horses, and some of the participating groups and participants may be unaware of this "mass" composting aspect of "TRIAGE", this is just another run by the DOI from the real solution which has been recommended to them by the National Academy of Sciences¹⁴ which is PZP immuno-contraception, along with stopping all the costly round ups and warehousing. We must also state that there is no known method for "Humane Slaughter" of horses and WHOA cannot condone this reference to Horse Slaughter by Governor Martinez.

This MOU is not yet signed, is only initialed, and for that WHOA is thankful. It is important to sound the alarm to the public as state and federal funding is mentioned on pg. 2 no. 2 of the MOU. The public will not likely support state and federal funding being utilized for a KILL Center, however is more likely to be in support of programs such as the \$250,000 already spent by the Navajo Nation recently for castration and contraception to mares,¹⁵ as well as legislation such as HB121 which would significantly reduce kill buyer traffic and therefore dumping and ban horse slaughter in New Mexico.

The BLM, the state of New Mexico, and others, it seems, will do everything and anything to evade the use of PZP non-sterilizing immune contraceptive, though it is proven, cost effective, easy to administer, and has a 95% efficacy¹⁶. Why? Because they both continuously give the strong appearance of wanting Wild Horses zeroed out, NOT managed.

This costly KILL CENTER that will need to be constantly fed horses from distant places once built, is not what the American people want and it appears the Navajo people do not want this MOU as is either¹⁷. Upon information and belief, the "two groups" who oppose this MOU are the Dine Elders and the medicine people, the Nohooka' dine' and Dine' hataali' Association.

Sincerely, Patience O'Dowd

¹¹ <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/02/26/1189605/-False-Drums-Beat-On-Horses-and-Tribes-in-New-Mexico>

Also, Governor Martinez' Fake Working Group on Horse Overpopulation <http://whoanm.org/wordpress/?p=261>

¹² <http://whoanm.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/UNITED-STATES-equine-slaughter-feasibility.pdf> pg 41, 43-47

¹³ Prohibit Slaughter of Horses <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/legislation.aspx?Chamber=H&LegType=B&LegNo=121&year=14>

¹⁴ Using Science to Improve the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program: A Way Forward

<http://wildhorseeducation.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/13511.pdf>

¹⁵ Budget and Finance Committee receives update on feral-horse-roundup

<http://www.navajo-nsn.gov/News%20Releases/NNCouncil/2014/mar/BFC%20receives%20update%20on%20feral%20horse%20roundup.pdf>

¹⁶ Science and Conservation Center <http://www.sccpzp.org/>

¹⁷ Tribe, Robert Redford group OK wild horses plan

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/tribe-robert-redford-group-ok-wild-horses-plan/2014/05/01/7e6f1f6c-d157-11e3-a714-be7e7f142085_story.html