

SAN FELIPE PUEBLO SAVES 14 WILD HORSES FROM SLAUGHTER!

- For unknown reasons, on September 15, 2015 fourteen (14) wild horses gathered by Santa Ana Pueblo were simply abandoned by Santa Ana at the Cattlemen's Livestock Auction in Belen, NM, where they faced likely slaughter.
- Authorities were unable to successfully communicate with Santa Ana Pueblo regarding these horses, leading the New Mexico Livestock Board to ask San Felipe Pueblo to accept these horses into the Wild Horse Preserve.
- Ricardo Ortiz, Pueblo Land Manager, negotiated with the Cattleman's Auction to rescue these wild horses.
- On September 25th the Cattlemen's Livestock Auction waived all boarding costs and transported the horses to San Felipe's Wild Horse Preserve.
- These very lucky 14 wild horses will now live where they are free from future capture or slaughter. (See the "Lucky 14" at www.placitaswildhorses.org)

THE SAN FELIPE WILD HORSE PRESERVE STORY

Although the Pueblo of San Felipe does not claim ownership of wild horses, the Tribal Council has set aside several hundred acres for a Wild Horse Sanctuary, to help proactively address the wild horse issue that is prevalent throughout the West. The Pueblo of San Felipe has been building a PZP program over several years to assist the wild horses with population control given external pressures placed on them by decreases in open spaces, increased development, climate change resulting in drought and rangeland degradation, horse dumping on the Pueblo, etc. Working with partners such as PlacitasWILD, WHOA, ASPCA and individual donors, the Wild Horse Sanctuary is being built. A water well and access road was installed, and the reserve has been fenced. The Pueblo took this positive action to help address the wild horse issue in a sustainable way, to preserve ancestral land from mining and other interests, and to protect wild horses on BLM land from slaughter.

- The Preserve has gone from an idea to operation within a year's time and is now sheltering a number of horses that would have otherwise been slaughtered. This has been possible because of support from Pueblo Leadership and partnership with Placitas WILD, WHOA and other non-profit organizations.
- Sustainable land management practices are the cornerstone of the Wild Horse Sanctuary. PZP is administered for sustainable herd size.
- When the Sanctuary is opened to the public, it is believed that the San Felipe Wild Horse Sanctuary will provide economic and tourism benefits for Bernalillo, Sandoval County and the state.
- The Wild Horse Sanctuary is a natural partner to San Felipe's Equine Therapy Program, which assists young people using proven treatment methods in an equine environment to promote positive growth and resiliency.

CONTACT: Pueblo of San Felipe
Ricardo Ortiz, Land Management Specialist
(505) 771-6636

PlacitasWILD