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## THE PLACITAS THREE.....FREE AGAIN



Photograph of their release at The New Mexico Horse Project (NMHP) by Marianne Nordstrom

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Placitas Wild Horses,

As most of you know, WHOA won the bid/freedom of the three pintos from the Placitas herd that were rounded up and turned over to the Livestock Board in June. Since they could not come back to Placitas, WHOA then turned them over to The New Mexico Horse Project's preserve in Socorro, New Mexico on Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup>. They will stay together and be free. Many Placitans worked together to make this happen. For the time being, the round-ups are on hold and we are finding solutions to effectively manage the herd in Placitas.

### FURTHER ROUND-UP STATUS

Round-ups are on hold at this time. WHOA has met with the Lt. Governor and Governor of the Pueblo of Santa Ana, LAFARGE, and the BLM.

## WHOA WILD HORSE PRESERVE PROPOSAL

1. Fencing to control horse movements. (WHOA has already fenced 1/2 mile of BLM near La Mesa).
2. Buy all BLM grazing permits as permittees allow.
3. Lease the Placitas BLM under the Parks & Recreation Act and establish it officially as an educational and recreational non-profit Wild Horse Preserve.
4. Establish a Wild Horse Festival in Placitas.
5. Funds earned can go toward herd management utilizing birth control methods through the U.S. Humane Society.
6. WHOA will also establish a fund for buying the land over a 20 yr period and keeping it as an Open Space for perpetuity.

WHOA is proposing this horse preserve as a WIN-WIN for the BLM which would also allow for future mining north of the power lines, with the stipulation that only small (approx. 100 acre) sections be mined at one time, and the land be rehabilitated with rolling hills and re-seeded with native vegetation/trees.

For those BLM permittees who do not want to sell their permits WHOA is hoping to be able to find other mutually acceptable agreements such as long term leasing.



Photograph of release by Joan Fenicle

## AGENCY STATUS

### BLM

In a meeting with LAFARGE and WHOA, the BLM stated Friday that if Santa Ana Pueblo allows, the BLM will also allow WHOA to fence the property/national boundary line between Santa Ana and the Placitas BLM. LAFARGE will need some gates in this fence as well. (Unfortunately, BLM could still round up the horses, but they would have to first post a valid impoundment notice at the Post Office).

### LAFARGE

LAFARGE, a construction materials company, is working to ensure that it's current and future plans allow for rapid re-seeding and natural rolling hills to leave the BLM as an open space and allow suitable habitat for a horse preserve!

### OPEN SPACE

Agreed to allow WHOA to fence 1.5 miles to keep the horses out of the La Mesa, Sundance, and Ranchos subdivisions! Open Space personnel have walked this proposed fence line with WHOA this summer. WHOA is waiting for resolution of future round-ups before starting this fencing.

### SANTA ANA

The Pueblo of Santa Ana Governors office is working diligently to obtain a suitable alternative to further round-ups. They have set a working meeting for the relevant government agencies and non-profits. They have also agreed to support WHOA's Wild Horse Eco-Tourism bills at legislature!

## WHOA FUNDING NEEDS

Thanks much for your generous donations!!!! With your help, WHOA was able to pay for "The Placitas Three". Please continue your support of the PLACITAS WILD HORSE PRESERVE.

**Wish List:** Monies for Santa Ana fencing, horse buyback reserve, water well, grazing permits lease/purchase, and legal defense fund.

### Mail donations to

PO Box 932, Placitas, NM 87043

**Or Paypal** us at [whoa@whoanm.org](mailto:whoa@whoanm.org)  
(or use the Paypal link at [www.whoanm.org](http://www.whoanm.org))

### QUESTIONS/IDEAS/ALERTS?

Please call 867-5228 or 610-7644.  
Please see our website for WHOA's legislative and New Mexico Eco-Tourism plan/information.

**On behalf of the horses,**

**Patience O'Dowd**  
**Wild Horse Observers Association**  
[whoa@whoanm.org](mailto:whoa@whoanm.org)