



Wild Horse Observers Association (WHOA)
A public 501 c3 non-profit corporation
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Ms. Dianne Maes
Sandoval County Manager
1500 Idalia Road, Building D,
Bernalillo, NM 87004
Phone: 505-867-7538
Email: dmaes@sandovalcountynm.gov

**Re: Placitas Wild Horses proactive
population management versus cruel removals**

10/04/2018

Dear Ms. Maes,

It is with all due respect and some regret that I must write this following letter to you, as you are with us just over a year now in your current position as Sandoval County Manager. WHOA had recently been given hope by the Sandoval County Attorney that the county would pass a wild horse ordinance that would usher in wild horse contraception for proactive population management. However, instead, the county has chosen to go another route with NM First, which is very uncertain, and certainly a dangerous path, for the reasons below, to both the will of the people, and to their sentient natural resource, the amazing wild horses of Placitas.

Many of us Placitans bought our homes because the wild horses were roaming through our neighborhoods.

86% of we the Placitans, by independent scientific poll, want the horses managed, but not with round ups and auctions, or even adoptions. We want them managed with non-toxic, non-hormonal, temporary contraception, versus removals from their home and their families and ours. Even per NM First own poll, an unscientific poll, we Placitans do not want the wild horses relocated or moved.

Other Placitans bought their homes and horse properties so that they could ride out onto the Albuquerque "open" space which has an ordinance disallowing harassment of wildlife. The fencing and forced locking of some gates and not others is also quite arbitrary, and is also a taking of property value, and intrinsic value from these homes.

Many Placitans tell WHOA that removals would be a loss to them and indeed it would be a taking, as these wild horses help sell our homes and thereby also increase our property value, both intrinsically as well as monetarily. Many Placitans are WHOA members and are attached to enjoying these sentient wild horses and know their families individually.

Many Placitans tell WHOA that those few who complain of the wild horses, knew that the wild horses were here first, and that they have a right to be here. It is clear that there is nothing in the law stopping those who complain, from fencing them out, and it is well understood that wild horses rarely jump fences even to get water.

A small minority may say we need to let our "land" rest, but what about the wild horses? If we indeed need to let our land rest, why are we not allowed contraception under the law NMSA77-18-5 which could limit their population humanely without removing genetics? Why do we still allow development? Why do we have cattle grazing on the BLM? Other questions abound regarding drought issues, which are actually what our land needs rest from, and, which wild horses help with, by protecting our land and homes from the associated wild fires, as well as help re-seed.

While any wildlife in the roads can be hazardous, Placitans swerve for rats, mice, snakes, quail, tarantulas, dogs, goats, deer, and bunnies. We have roads with blind curves which are in and of themselves a danger. We just now have Wild

Horse Warning Signage after a long battle were Placitans put up their own signage and the state took it down. Please look at the Protect our Wildlife Mural at the entrance of Placitas. There is a lot of wildlife here in this wildlife corridor.

Again, why can we not manage the wild horse population with contraceptives? Deer and elk which walk everywhere, public and private lands included, and are managed (with hunting), given that their natural predators (same as the wild horse's) are under serious attack with year-round traps in NM (also against the will of the people and banned in other states).

NM First/BLM/NMLB/City of Albuquerque

Government is for and by the people and while NM First is a non-profit, it was formed by two federal Senators and it always has two federal Senators on its Board (Currently Senator Udall and Senator Heinrich). Though a non-profit, this group is paid for by our tax dollars and is itself, a political steering committee basically conspiring with our government officials toward installing yet another semi-permanent, *multi-jurisdictional "steering committee"* to include more government agencies (BLM and NM Livestock Board) which have no jurisdiction over these wild horses. WHOA has already opposed the NMLB in court and won. Both the BLM and the NMLB are admittedly adversarial to the will of the people and their publicly owned state's wild horses. These two agencies are in fact, illegally lethal to these legally wild horses owned by the people of the state. A third, the Albuquerque Open Space has also shown itself to be adversarial to the will of the people and the wildlife, even against its own Open Space ordinance.

Let us remember that nonprofits, are by legal definition in New Mexico, benevolent and work in the public interest.

Importantly, two of these government agencies just so happen to have been working behind the scenes since 1/25/2018 in a *multi-jurisdictional "Recreational Steering Committee"* at the BLM, with the BLM, regarding the BLM lands in question here (The Buffalo Tract and the Crest of Montezuma) wherein the BLM itself is not following the required tribal government to government laws. Interestingly, there is the strong appearance that while the Anti-Wild Horse Pueblo was in the loop, the Pro-Wild Horse Pueblo was illegally, not in the loop. This is not a pick and choose situation. Moreover, all including Pueblos must be afforded equal protection under the law.

"Federally recognized Indian tribes are sovereign nations exercising government-to-government relations with the United States. Where the public lands are concerned, these relations usually take the form of legally required consultation."

These two agencies (BLM and NMLB) though law enforcement agencies themselves, are also adversarial to the laws protecting these wild horses, as well as to the wild horses and to the groups which work to make and uphold laws protecting these wild horses.

NM First, aka Senators Udall and Heinrich, and these three government agencies, along with our County government should be serving the people and protecting our wild horses/wildlife rather than basically conspiring to mislead and harm the public, and their sentient natural resource, the amazing wild horses of Placitas and the surrounding areas.

Again, the science states that contraception is the best answer per the National Academy of Sciences. It has been about 5 yrs since this has been stated to the BLM and to the nation. There is no question here.

The county must protect and serve these wild horses and STOP spending our tax dollars, in an arbitrary and capricious manner, with regards to population of these wild horses and their safety. All government agencies must cease and desist conspiring to get rid our treasured and sentient, natural resource, our state's wild horses.

Causing a problem of a localized over population in order to then steal them from the people due to the *problem caused*, is in and of itself, akin to racketeering: ". . .offering of a dishonest service to solve a problem that wouldn't otherwise exist without the enterprise offering the service."

NM First has been paid with our tax dollars, but is supporting political desires of these two Senators who owe favors to the Livestock Industry, the hunting industry, and a political subdivision of the state, which is also recently in a conflict of interest with the wild horses of Placitas regarding these BLM lands. Alternatively, NM First and these two Senators

should be serving the people rather than basically conspiring to mislead. The contraceptive itself will cost about only about \$1000 each year it is utilized plus some labor and the county has already spent \$500 on yet another "survey" to mislead.

We do not want these adversarial agencies getting any more money for blocking the use of proactive contraception and sending them to their death. We do not want our wild horses put in a small sanctuary. Wild horses need 75 to 100 acres/horse to roam and graze. This would now require the entire BLM and more which they do currently and legally roam.

WHOA and Placitans want Sandoval County to just please tell the NMLB and the BLM that they have no jurisdiction and to leave these wild horses alone. Placitans can and will manage them right where they are, and are happy to do so in conjunction with Sandoval County. WHOA has been offering this for about 8 years now....

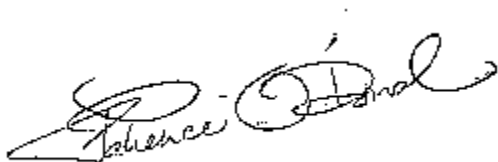
As requested, WHOA provided a DRAFT Ordinance for the wild horses in Sandoval County. WHOA included funding utilizing a NM Wild Horse License plate which would also be very positive for tourism in NM. We would like to work on edits to this ordinance and samples of the driver's license plate, with the county attorney and get this passed asap through the County Commission so that all can move forward on this important issue of truly humane population management, now overdue since 2007.

I had enjoyed working with Sandoval County Commissioner James Holden-Rhodes and the County Attorney on this (as well as the wild horse signage which he accomplished once and for all), and look forward to re-starting the ordinance effort together.

WHOA does appreciate any funding as mentioned to the county for population management from the adversarial agencies and note that they have cost the tax payers and Placitans many wild horses, much time and many dollars, as well as heart ache, opposing this legal management over time, in court, and otherwise. All these resources could be better spent on the issue at hand, humane and feasible population management.

Please let me know if you would like any supporting documentation mentioned herein or if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you. The time for contraception is now.

Thanks Much,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patience O'Dowd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patience O'Dowd
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and
Wildlife Protection of New Mexico (WHOA Voters)
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