

BuINETTE  
P.O. Box 86  
Tijeras, NM 87059



WNOA  
P.O. Box 932  
Placitas, NM 87043

87043+0532



Jason M. Burnette  
P.O. Box 86  
Tijeras, NM 87059  
(505) 385-5548

~~Linda Rundel~~  
~~NM State Director~~  
~~Bureau of Land Management~~  
~~New Mexico State Office,~~  
~~P.O. Box 27145,~~  
~~Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115~~

May 1, 2008

Re: Rio Puerco RMP/Wild Horses of Placitas

Dear Director Rundell,

The Placitas community has formed a coalition called the Placitas Coalition which is very inclusive and is a representative initiative of the community..

The Placitas Coalition is a Common Grounds Coalition with Wild Horse Observers Association (WHOA), and the State of New Mexico, whose representatives registered their support for the protection of the wild horses on the BLM in Placitas ("where they exist") and for the creation of a wildlife/wild horse park via unanimous votes for SM2 (2006), SJM08 (2007), SM35 (2008), and near unanimous votes for SB655 (2007) and SJM16 (2008). As such they and I would like to keep the 5000 acre BLM property in Placitas as a wildlife/wild horse park. This amounts to only 1% of the BLM lands included in the Rio Puerco Resource management Plan Update (RMP).

Whereas;

The BLM, New Mexico State University, and the Rural Economic Development (Department) Through Tourism, assert the following;

- The BLM is directed by the Preserve America Executive Order March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003.  
"Federal agencies will provide leadership in preserving America's heritage.."  
"Cultural Heritage Tourism- Cultural Heritage; A broad concept that includes tangible assets such as natural and cultural environments, encompassing of landscapes, historic places, sites and built environments, as well as intangible assets such as collections, past and continuing cultural practices, knowledge, and living experiences".
- Heritage Tourism accounts for 81% of the tourism of the US.
- Tourism is the second largest employer in the US.
- Tourism is a \$2.5 billion industry in NM.
- Heritage Tourism promotes and provides Rural Economic development in NM.

Whereas;

The Placitas Coalition asserts the following;

- Tourism is the largest private sector employer in New Mexico and the second largest revenue second only to oil and gas.
- The Placitas community has united formally over the last 6 yrs to preserve and protect the horses on the Placitas BLM.

- The Placitas community has installed and maintained 2.5 miles of fencing on the Placitas BLM.
- The Placitas community has repaired and maintained over 2 miles of BLM/Santa Ana boundary fencing.
- The Placitas community has recently installed another 2 miles of border fencing on Alb. Open Space in Placitas.
- The Placitas community has united to utilize the wild horses and the BLM where they exist for Heritage Eco-Tourism.
- The State of New Mexico has supported 6 bills in support of the wild horses of this state including SB655 (2007) among other local and federal laws which provide that the Placitas Horses are legally wild horses of the State of New Mexico.
- The San Felipe Pueblo has declared in 2004 that these horses are protected by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) as Cultural Historic Properties and, they have stated as per Tom Gow Rio Puerco Field Manager to Placitas and Udall's office, that these horses "belong to the earth".
- The San Felipe Pueblo has informally claimed only a few horses as recognizable in the context of disallowing the BLM to remove them from the Placitas BLM for disposition by the New Mexico Livestock Board/Auction.
- The Albuquerque Open Space Ordinance in Placitas provides that these horses are legally wild and protected.
- Most property owners contiguous with the BLM "stake holders" have also signed the Common Grounds Coalition letter, including Home Owners Associations and individual home owners.
- The State of New Mexico has specifically asked the BLM in SM2 and SJM08 to protect and preserve wild horses where they exist.
- The State of New Mexico has specifically asked the Native Tribes of New Mexico to also protect and preserve the wild horses where they exist in SM17.
- As per Opine 94-06; Fish and Game have no statutory authority over wild horses (non-game animals). Moreover, the New Mexico Livestock Board has no statutory authority over wild horses.
- The state has passed SJM16 and SM35 both in (2008) asking the state of NM to perform a fiscal analysis on obtaining the Placitas BLM under the Federal Parks and Purposes Act to become the New Mexico Wild Horse State Park.

**Whereas;**

**The Fire Chief of Placitas Bud Brinkerhoff asserts the following;**

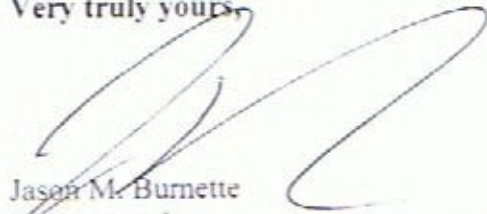
- Per emergency scenario planning there is no need for further ingress or egress from Placitas and at such a time that there is a need, RT165 can be widened to four lanes. Also that he has emergency access to every structure in Placitas.

**Therefore with this letter I ask;**

- **There be no more round ups of New Mexico's wild horses on the Albuquerque Open Space, or on the BLM in Placitas.**
- **The Placitas Coalition be involved in all planning, meetings, and decision making as if they were granted cooperative agency status in my stead.**
- **That these horses be utilized per the WHOA tourism plan for Heritage Tourism as per the Preserve America Executive Order.**
- **That a new route be found for the West-wide Energy Corridor that does not impact the Placitas BLM, Placitas and East Mountain Residential Areas.**
- **That Sandoval County utilize RT 22 or anywhere further North for a Northwest Corridor (Loop Rd or Connecting Rd I25 to RT 14) at such time this is deemed necessary.**
- **That the Placitas BLM lands be transferred to the State of New Mexico or local government under the Federal Public Park and Purposes Act or any other applicable mechanism.**

- That if the previous request cannot be granted that the BLM create an Area of Critical Environmental Concern based on the states wild horses which live there and come and go and allow only other multiple uses that do not interfere with this intent.
- That failing the above two options, the Placitas BLM be withdrawn from all permit processes that would interfere with the wild life/wild horses.

Very truly yours,



Jason M. Burnette  
Attorney at Law  
Candidate for NM State Senate District 19  
Resident of Tijeras

cc.

Governor Richardson  
Dave Simon State Parks Director  
Matt Schmader Director Albuquerque Open Space  
Attorney General Gary King  
Executive Director Livestock Board  
Representative Heather Wilson

W H O A