



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

February 8, 2006

Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque NM 87102
BY TELEFAX (505) 842-3110

Dear Mr. Forsgren:

I write regarding the roundup of wild horses currently occurring in the Jicarilla Wild Horse Territory in the Carson National Forest. Approximately 20 horses were rounded up last fall. The Forest Service states it expects to remove another 100 horses from the territory this year.

The Jicarilla herd is the last sizeable herd of wild horses in the state of New Mexico. Reducing the Jicarilla wild horse herd to less than 200 endangers its genetic variability. Without sufficient herd size and therefore genetic variability, these horses may go extinct in 40 years or less. I urge you to keep this herd intact in the Wild Horse Territory and utilize other management techniques to maintain the range.

These wild horses constitute a valuable connection to New Mexico's rich history. As such they also attract tourism and national attention. I am convinced that they can be managed in a fashion that is compatible with range management, and I urge the Forest Service to make the extra effort to take care of the horses especially given that we appear to be entering into another severe drought year.

I request that the Forest Service stop the roundup, and return to the Jicarilla Wild Horse Territory all wild horses currently held by the Forest Service from past round ups.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Richardson".

Bill Richardson
Governor