

TOM UDALL
3D DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

**Co-VICE CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL
NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS**

1414 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6190

811 SAINT MICHAELS DRIVE
SUITE 104
SANTA FE, NM 87505
(505) 984-8950

www.tomudall.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3103

March 23, 2006

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Harv Forsgren, Regional Director
U.S. Forest Service
333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Mr. Forsgren:

I write to express my concern about the ongoing roundup of wild horses in the Jicarilla Wild Horse Territory in the Carson National Forest.

Wild horses are a part of New Mexico's great heritage and a beautiful component of our forest and mountain landscapes. Beyond their aesthetic contribution to our state, wild horses draw tourism to our forests and communities.

The Jicarilla herd is the last sizeable herd of wild horses in New Mexico. I understand that because of range conditions many horses were recently removed from the forest, and will be available for adoption in the next few days. While the range must be carefully managed, the herd must also be kept at or above a population size that ensures genetic variability. Please continue to take this into consideration as you consider the possibility of future roundups.

Yours is the delicate challenge of maintaining both the rangelands and wild horse populations. As you endeavor to accomplish this task, I encourage you to take every effort to preserve the Jicarilla herd. Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Very truly yours,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress

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