



Wild Horse Observers Association (WHOA)
A public 501 c3 non-profit corporation
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Glen Harper
Range and Wildlife Division Manager
Pueblo of Santa Ana
Department of Natural Resources
2 Dove Road
Santa Ana Pueblo, NM 87004

9/28/12

Dear Mr. Harper

Thank you for inviting us to discuss the Pueblo of Santa Ana's desire to acquire the BLM lands in Placitas. WHOA appreciates that Santa Ana has been open with WHOA regarding their opinion of the status of the free roaming horses as feral.

WHOA would like to take this opportunity to share the latest science afforded us by mitochondrial DNA and DNA studies of OLD DNA in the permafrost. This information shows clearly that the horse is a re-introduced native species. WHOA too" advocates horse management based on science, rather than politics."

Excerpts from Attached Paper

Wild Horses as Native North American Wildlife by Jay F. Kirkpatrick,
Ph.D. and Patricia M. Fazio, Ph.D. (Revised January 2010)

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"Dr. Ross MacPhee, Curator of Mammalogy at the American Museum of Natural History, and colleagues, have dated the existence of woolly mammoths and horses in North America to as recent as 7,600 years ago." . . .

"The relatively new (30-year-old) field of molecular biology, using mitochondrial-DNA analysis, has recently revealed that the modern or caballine horse, *E. caballus*, is genetically equivalent to *E. lambei*, a horse, according to fossil records, that represented the most recent *Equus* species in North America prior to extinction. Not only is *E. caballus* genetically equivalent to *E. lambei*, but no evidence exists for the origin of *E. caballus* anywhere except North America (Forstén 1992)." . . .

"The key element in describing an animal as a native species is (1) where it originated; and (2) whether or not it co-evolved with its habitat. Clearly, *E. 6* " . . .

Moreover;

"The issue of feralization and the use of the word "feral" is a human construct that has little biological meaning except in transitory behavior, usually forced on the animal in some manner."

WHOA welcomes the opportunity to open up this conversation with the Pueblo of Santa Ana regarding the science around horses as native as well as the laws around these horses as wild. We look forward to further meetings and exchanges.

In the interim, and with the clock ticking on the public process regarding the future of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Placitas, WHOA respectfully asks the following questions on behalf of the horses, and their habitat.

In 2006, after pressure apparently caused by outfall from an article by the [Albuquerque Journal](#), Santa Ana hired a wrangler and rounded up horses from Santa Ana lands adjacent to Placitas BLM lands and sent them to a Livestock Auction House in South Albuquerque. WHOA investigated, reacquired these horses through the Livestock Board, and released them onto a private preserve.

If Santa Ana acquires these BLM lands where more wild horses roam;

1. How will Santa Ana deal with the horses they perceive to be excess estray Livestock?
2. Has Santa Ana ever investigated the use of contraceptives on excess wildlife?
3. Contraceptives such as native PZP porcine zona pelucida is effective on over 80 species of mammals so far. Would Santa Ana consider using contraceptives even on Beavers and other wildlife that is sometimes perceived as problematic when the predator species nature is out of balance?
4. Does Santa Ana plan to bring predator species back into balance?
5. Does Santa Ana allow hunting of predator species?
6. How will Santa Ana deal with other wild life they perceive to be in excess such as Beavers?
7. Is Santa Ana aware that horses are a re-introduced native species that evolved only here in the US along with these grasses and was only gone for less than 8000 years out of 50 million?

Santa Ana states their intention is to "reacquire" the BLM lands on the northern end of Placitas.

1. What are Santa Ana's plans with regards to allowing a right of way (ROW) or highway precursor to go through these lands as has been requested by Sandoval County of the BLM as part of the BLM public process and which has been received by the BLM?
2. What are Santa Ana's plans to allow mining of these BLM lands which uses precious water and dusts our air. The Del Agua Water Report from 2002 stated that LaFarge used approx. 217 acre feet per year on average, or about 70,000,000 gallons/year.
3. Why does the Indian Cultural Center website appear to deny that the BLM lands east of the Rio Grande are ancestral to the Pueblo of Santa Ana? <http://www.indianpueblo.org/19pueblos/santaana.html>
4. Does Santa Ana plan on creating a real wildlife pathway under I25 for a wild life corridor rather than narrow culverts which many species will not pass through?

**Sincerely,
Patience O'Dowd
for the WHOA Board**