

Postal Customer
Placitas, NM 87043

Placitas **Wild** **Horses**

For the Open Spaces and the Wild Ones that Grace Them

SAN FELIPE PUEBLO STATEMENT

A story in the March 2013 edition of the Sandoval Signpost, a community paper located in Placitas, implies that the Pueblo of San Felipe engages in the neglectful treatment of the wild horses that populate the San Felipe – Placitas area. Those familiar with the Pueblo’s history with the wild horses can recognize the “story” for what it is – a propaganda piece aimed at besmirching the Pueblo’s reputation as part of an effort by a small number of Placitas residents interested in preventing the Pueblo from obtaining BLM lands located adjacent to the Pueblo and the Village of Placitas. Although the Pueblo has never claimed ownership of the wild horses, it has always allowed these wild animals to roam the land. As those who have observed the horses can attest, the vast majority of wild horses roaming the area are majestic, healthy animals who can be observed running like the wind at first sight of humans.



San Felipe Far Eastern Border

On Sunday, February 17, the aforementioned group of Placitas residents trespassed upon the Pueblo’s land after learning that a group of distressed horses were observed on San Felipe. How these folks learned of the situation is unclear. These folks then called everyone they could think of – KRQE-TV, KOAT-TV, the New Mexico Livestock Board, the New Mexico State Land Office, and the Bureau of

Indian Affairs to obtain assistance for the horses - everyone except the Pueblo itself. The horses publicized by the trespassers were in poor condition, and previously had not been seen by staff of the Pueblo’s Natural Resources Department, which checks on the wild horse population in the area on a weekly basis. As soon as the Pueblo became aware of the situation, alfalfa and water were provided for the horses. Because the handful of horses observed on February 17 were accustomed to eating alfalfa and drinking water in very close proximity to humans, the Pueblo does not think they are part of the local wild horse herd. San Felipe will be conducting genetic testing of the horses as part of the effort to

determine where they came from. It is unclear why these horses were congregating at the border of private land rather than roaming to areas where healthy wild horses are regularly seen. Although a small stretch of fence (20 feet) in this vicinity was mended recently, there were

and continue to be fence openings that horses move through in this area. The horses were not fenced out of the Pueblo or away from locations where the local wild horses regularly obtain water and forage.

The wild horse situation in the San Felipe-Placitas area is complex. The Pueblo has demonstrated its commitment to work with its neighbors to find a satisfactory solution to the issue. This recent event demonstrates that the Pueblo’s commitment is not shared by everyone.

Horse: Re-introduced Native Specie which Co-Evolved with North Western American Habitat

Horses evolved **with this** habitat over 58 Million years, they were gone less than 8000 years. The horse that left is the equivalent horse that came back with the Spanish (by mitochondrial DNA). The vegetation they evolved with did not change while they were gone, and neither did they. In comparison, Bison did not originate here and have only been here for 200 thousand years. Horses are built to eat drier grasses than cattle due to their caecal, or post gastric, digestive system, and their long legs are built to roam far for forage and water. Their teeth designed to cut/mow rather than pull as they have upper front teeth and cattle (all ruminants except camels) do not. This allows them to graze w/o disturbing the roots. Their hooves plant the seeds which their digestive system does not kill, as cattle's does. Their mowing stimulates growth in native plants and suppresses non-native plants. This is what is usually said about cattle who only approximate true top down grazers, while it actually applies to horses.

As you drive past the Placitas County Sign, look across the Forest Service to the south, where no horses roam. Is it dead yellow grasses? Sure is! 2012 was the hottest year on record. Luckily, the Horses have reduced the fire hazards in Placitas as they have elsewhere in the US. Many Thanks! Realize this. The horse is being freed from 100 years of rhetoric by mitochondrial DNA analysis, just as people have been found innocent and released from prison by DNA analysis. This information shared above is from a long list including;

There was also a Recent Symposium at UNM at the Hibben Center for Archeology entitled, "Return of the Horse Screening/Symposium." It was very well attended and included an Elder/Speaker from Cochiti. WHOA is hoping to host this symposium in Placitas.

(Dr. Kirkpatrick and Dr. Fazio 2010). <http://awionline.org/content/wild-horses-native-north-american-wildlife>, (Forsten 1992), Mitochondrial-DNA timetable and the evolution of Equus: Comparison of molecular and paleontological evidence. Ann. Zool., Fennici 28: 301-309., (Forsten 1992, Craig C. Downer The Wild Horse Conspiracy (see pg 35 re: Relation to Fire). Restoring Heterogeneity on Rangelands: Ecosystem Management Based on Evolutionary Grazing Patterns. Samuel D. Fulendorf and David M. Engle, A Generalized Model of the Effects of Grazing by Large Herbivores on Grassland Community Structure D.G. Milchunas, O.E. Sala, W.K. Laurenroth. (To mention a few.)

WHOA Opposes Senator Sapien's Plan to Buy BLM with Capitol Outlays in SCO 0035

Dear Governor Martinez, Senator Sapien,
gloria.marquez@state.nm.us; john.sapien@nmlegis.gov

Please address the questions raised below regarding the Placitas Horses and capital outlay request in SCO 0035 EASTERN SANDOVAL CO LAND PRCHS FOR PARK one hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$145,000) to purchase the Placitas BLM lands. Can be seen at;
<http://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/13%20Regular/capitaloutlays/senate/SCO0035.pdf>

When WHOA looked into an RPP&P land transfer of the state with then Governor Richardson, the BLM rejected it. They denied the horses were wild and also said there could be no livestock grazing on RPP&P lands.

1. What are your joint assurances to Placitans and the nation, that not one of these federally wild horses of Placitas will end up at auction or slaughter? That they will remain in Placitas, as wild horses, and remain on the current BLM lands and receive contraception?
 2. How is it legal for an RPP&P land transfer at the tail end of a 5 yr public process, thereby disenfranchising the thousands of participants, including the First Americans?
 3. Livestock have no rights and no protections against auction and slaughter. That is a deal breaker. The Virginia Range horses of Nevada have found out what happens to free range Livestock under state agreements, (auction and slaughter). That is THE reason US Congress passed have a federal law, the 1971 Free roaming Wild Horses and Burros Act.
 4. **It is premature to start this RPP\$P process when there has been no public meeting held by the BLM as required statutorily.**
 5. WHOA is committed to protect the wild horses of Placitas and their habitat, and cannot accept a plan which classifies them as Livestock.
 6. At presentations of this plan on 2/6/13 & 2/22/13, Placitans were told that if the horses were legally wild, they would be sent to Oklahoma holding pens. If Livestock, they would be culled for slaughter, as they have no viable plan in place. This plan would come to fruition not significantly sooner than would the current public processes: the RPBLM RMP and the current legal process, both of which will come to fruition in approximately one year.
 7. The animal cruelty laws of New Mexico exempt Livestock from all protections and as you know, New Mexico has not yet even prosecuted alleged egregious abuses at auction houses of 1 yr ago as happened previously. Placitas Horses going to holding pens in Oklahoma, or slaughter? This is outrageous and one could imagine the longstanding repercussions.
- ALL, Please join WHOA and email your opposition. Perhaps copy WHOA at wildhorsesnm@yahoo.com.**

Suggested Alternative Use of SCO 0035 Monies of \$145K and \$100K

Playground in Placitas
Skate Park
Animal Control Shelter

New Mexico Horse Slaughter Facility BAN!

PLEASE ALSO ASK Governor Martinez to write an **Executive Order to Ban Horse Slaughter in NM!** email: (gloria.marquez@state.nm.us). Also participate in her phoneTally @ (505) 476-2200 - Say No to horse slaughter. See UnIntended Consequences Of Horse Slaughter in US.
<http://whoanm.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/UNITED-STATES-equine-slaughter-feasibility.pdf>