



*I'm hoping that the man will save the horse, because in so many instances,
the horse has saved the man*

- M. Scott Momaday

Dear Wild Horse Supporter,

This is a time of great challenges for us all. It is a time where many of us struggle to make ends meet, to make a difference – or simply to make sense of the times we live in. ***The American Wild Horse, however, is fighting for its actual survival as a species.*** Like the canary in the coal mine, their plight has implications for our own survival, linked to the health of our public land, and the accountability of a government that has been entrusted to be its steward.

As you read this letter, approximately 45,000 wild horses sit in BLM “holding facilities” awaiting their fate, which, if large corporate interests have their way, is to end up in the slaughterhouse and ultimately extinct – or at least completely removed from the wild. Some of these horses are likely already on their way to the Mexican border... Mass roundups and removals have reached epic proportions. **The housing of these captured and confined animals alone currently costs American taxpayers \$120,000/day!**

Of the 2 million horses that once roamed the lands of the West in the late 1700's, approximately 15,000 – or just 1% actually remain on our public lands. Removals (roundups) have increased dramatically in the past 2 years, partly due to the sneaky Burns Amendment, which allowed the slaughter of horses that have either reached their 10th birthday or attended their third unsuccessful adoption. Aggressive helicopter-driven roundups result in premature deaths due to stress, heat exhaustion, dehydration, unsafe holding pens or the heartbreak of the destruction of their family unit. The methods used in their removal are strikingly similar to methods of human extermination used during the holocaust. And this beautiful, resilient creature, who has carried humans on its back, fought wars, plowed fields and transported goods and humans across vast territories, has been reduced to imprisonment in a dry, crowded shade-less holding pen.

Although the Wild Horse is often labeled as an “exotic” by its enemies, the exhaustive collection of scientific research compiled in Craig Downer's recent book [The Wild Horse Conspiracy](#) documents scientific proof that not only did all horses originate from a species in North America 58 million years ago, but that it has existed here nearly continuously ever since. Downer's book also documents the numerous ways in which the horse, when allowed to exist in viable herd numbers on appropriate acreage, has the potential to improve the health of the land, reduce fire hazard and support a multitude of other plants and wildlife species. The Wild Horse is the quintessential symbol of the American spirit of freedom, beauty and independence.

But “big business” doesn't see it this way. To them, the horse is a “nuisance”, an obstacle to massive energy and mineral extraction, transcontinental pipelines, deadly uranium mines and grazing allotments for an elite minority of large scale ranching interests.

The case may seem overwhelming, and yet *there is so much we can do!*

First, we can educate the public: *Wild Horses and Renegades*, now airing on the Documentary Chanel (www.DocumentaryChannel.com). It is a documentary that exposes the plight of the American Wild Horse and our public lands, following the story of “Traveler” and the persecution of his herd in ‘Disappointment Valley’. Backed by interviews with noted celebrities, elected officials, authors and activists, it tells a story of betrayal – not just of the Wild Horse, but of the American People through the corruption of the very system that is supposed to serve them.

As a message of hope, **Horse Medicine is a new and transformative film currently in production that takes viewers on a remarkable journey of mystery, beauty and profound love.** The experiences of a variety of individuals from Hollywood celebrities to American Indian elders illustrate the powerful and healing alliance of man and horse since ancient times. Less controversial in nature, **Horse Medicine** can reach an even wider audience with its message of hope, and will strengthen the case for the preservation and protection of these magnificent creatures.

Second, we can stand up for our rights and the rights of the Wild Horse: We can hold our government accountable for the very laws its officials are elected to uphold. *We can assert the belief that our government is in place to serve the people at large, not elite profit-driven corporate interests.* The recently filed lawsuit, *Kleinert v. Salazar* builds a strong case for such a cause, charging our Secretary of the Interior with violation of the Wild Horse and Burro Act and violation of constitutional rights of the public to view and document its activities in BLM roundups.

As a Wild Horse supporter, you are undoubtedly outraged at the recent surge of roundups and inhumane treatment of the horses – and the corruption and greed that are at their root. I ask you to transform this outrage into support for the documentaries, *Wild Horses and Renegades* and *Horse Medicine* and the legal battle of *Kleinert v. Salazar*. We cannot do this without you. Funding is needed to cover legal costs, increase the exposure of *Wild Horses and Renegades* and complete filming and final production of *Horse Medicine*.

This is not a time to sit by and watch the devastation. This is a time for action. Please join us in our efforts to get these horses out of the holding pens and back on the range where they belong and support our ongoing educational films. **Please go to either Creative Visions** (<http://www.creativevisions.org/2012/03/james-arnaquad-kleinert-wild-horses-and-renegades/>) or www.TheAmericanWildHorse.com and click “Donate” for whatever amount you are able: from \$25 to \$2500 or more. Our educational films are sponsored by Creative Visions Foundation, a publicly supported 501 (c)(3), which supports Creative Activists who use the power of media and the arts to affect positive change in the world. All donations are tax deductible. Let us promote integrity and accountability in our government and honor the spirit of the Wild Horse with a home on our lands where they can continue to live in their natural state, roaming freely in the American West.

With deepest gratitude,

James Anaquad Kleinert
Creative Visions
www.TheAmericanWildHorse.com
www.CreativeVisions.org



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