

WILD HORSE PRESERVATION LEAGUE

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February 3, 2011

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
C/O Suzanne Scourby
-and-
Lyon County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife
C/O James Jenne, Chair

Subject: Feral Horse Committee

Dear Commissioners and Lyon CAB Members:

While I think most of us agree free-roaming horses found on public lands in Nevada require sensible and responsible management, and that Congress has tasked the Bureau of Land Management to manage horse and burro herds for a "thriving ecological balance." But, my personal observations of the activities of the Feral Horse Committee appear to be contributing nothing to that overall objective.

Effective management of horses, wildlife, livestock and any other public lands use, simply has to be based on objectivity and science, not hearsay, in order to achieve the objectives set by Congress and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Objectivity involves fair consideration of all relevant facts and points of view. Science involves hard data and established protocols, not assumptions and hearsay.

If we are going to get range biology right in this state, all involved parties need to drop their prejudicial agendas. Consequently, they collectively have to identify facts and problems, collaborate as to what these problems actually entail, accurately assess and quantify all the sources of range degradation to help evaluate potential solutions and reach conclusions which will contribute to solving the ongoing concerns expressed by so many.

Inflaming the problem, as appears to be the current direction of the Feral Horse Committee, is not likely to lead to any practical resolution of the matters at hand. Objective cooperation among the parties of interest, as was demonstrated in the recent Pine Nut Mountains HMA, clearly does produce constructive participation of all parties involved, stable horse herds, and a more consistent platform from which to manage wildlife.

I received permission today to submit two documents, one from Paul J. Polechia, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor at the University of New Mexico and Biologist / Lead Tracker for the New Mexico Wild Horse Project, and one from Wildlife Biologist Neil O. Schiche. These letters support my concerns that we, and particularly our "public bodies," need to start addressing these issues through science, not bias.

Respectfully Submitted,

H. Bonnie Matton

H. Bonnie Matton, President

Sent by electronic mail