

The letter from the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands clearly sees the much-loved wild horse as purely a nuisance on public lands. The letter is requesting more money to round up and warehouse more of these magnificent animals in mass corrals. I believe that they are totally out of touch with how the public views the wild horses, and even how the State uses them to promote Nevada.

What the letter from the Coalition also fails to understand is that Nevada's economy in large part sustains itself not from ranching, but from entertainment. Thousands of people flock to the State for events as diverse as Burning Man and Las Vegas's casinos. Tourists also come to Nevada to experience the Wild West and its wide-open desert spaces. As a State we are totally overlooking the potential of an amazing resource right out there on the range. THE MAGNIFICENT MUSTANGS!! I believe this is happening because the horses are in direct competition for grazing rights on our public lands. Horses are being rounded up and ranching is being subsidized - all with our tax money.

Any one of us who has seen a herd of wild horses out on the range, grazing or galloping with their families is usually thrilled to see them. Quite unlike our monochrome cattle who stand idly all day, these equines are wonderful colors and sizes and constantly on the move. I quote a fellow American who said "For my own tiny part in this equine saga, I admit to having grown fond of wild horses after admiring their small swift herds while I was backpacking. To me, the horses looked wild and natural, whereas the cattle looked exotic and destructive".

Wake up Nevada! Go outside and see for yourself. Often, we do not value what is right before our eyes, right on our doorsteps. There are indeed multiple organizations offering Wild Horse Tours in the State already. But if we continue to round up the wild horses at this rate, there will no longer be wild horses to see. I quote this time from the Wild Horse Adventures of Nevada. "Moving in a rhythm older than man's urge to tame them, their silhouetted images dance across the horizon. Eyes and nostrils wide open, they earn their native name of "wind drinkers." They sweep out of sight but not out of memory." The Coalition does not speak for the people of Nevada.

Anamaria Boustred

Carson City, NV

anamaria@soqueltech.com