

**“The Greatness of a Nation Can Be Judged By The Way It’s Animals Are Treated”
Mahatma Gandhi**

February 20, 2024

Sagebrush Ecosystem Council

Re: Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting February 22, 2024, Agenda Item #7
Coalition For Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses

5th Generation Nevadan (with 7th Gen grandkids) here who has Trusted the government agencies and supported hunting, ranching, and outdoors my whole life and trusting them to make moral, ethical, financial and conscientious decisions for all of us taxpaying citizens.

Many years ago when departing from your flight at Reno Tahoe Intl Airport and walking into “Reno” you passed a wall of wild horses, depicting our state as “Wild and Free”. At least since then wild horses have been used to **Attract Tourism in Nevada** and have come to everyone’s attention. Thousands of photographers/videographers+ take pictures of them – make calendars, sell pictures, enter contests, post videos, art shows, write books, billboards (all the way to New York City), make movies with them and about them. Magazines. Wild horse and burro groups conduct tours, hold classes and events, provide information. Tourist Bureaus and Agencies promote, honor and celebrate our wild horses – selling notebooks, cards, t-shirts, mural on the building, a sculpture, and other wild horse murals painted on the side of the buildings all over Carson City and elsewhere – statues – metal art. Horses brought us here. **Enjoyment** of a Fabulous Majestic Animal that’s served human beings and made things possible.

People literally come from all over the United States, and even the World, to see our wild horses. Most of our new residents love them. People talk about them on the internet. Visitors ask where they can see them, and I recently saw a post by someone who said they drove out and parked and watched them and it gave them such a sense of peace. We learn about their “families” and how they live and take care of each other. A fine example of love for our children and grandchildren. Yes, we’ve grown to love them – and feel like they’re a part of our “wild” life in Nevada. Our wild horses (and burros) are **“Mental Health”** and **Quality of Life** for many and it’s been clouded at least for the last couple years with brutal roundups and not everyone is turning a blind eye anymore. The Nevada wild horses were recently (as mentioned by someone else) in over 100 publications Around the World during the roundups and what many of us consider THE True “Crisis”. I saw part of the E Pershing Roundup on NextDoor and someone on-line typed “that shouldn’t be shown. It’s too horrible for kids to see”. Providing bad examples for our children and the rest of the world. A total contrast to what kids could be seeing as a learning tool – learning to share, being kind to animals, how to live with and respect wild animals, being interested in the land we pay taxes on and belongs to all of us.

Not even commenting on “if” roundups are truly needed, because those that think they are carry them out in brutal incomprehensive ways. WE have to pay “ranchers” millions of dollars to carry out these terroristic roundups – injuring, killing, breaking necks, breaking legs, shooting, roundups in 100 degree weather when a mare has just given birth and the foal is newborn - families – chased by helicopters and so many deaths in the roundups and after the roundups. Horses dying of illness in pens we can’t see

because they're hidden. TOO many injuries, separations and deaths. We used to see similar abuse on tv happening in 3rd world countries.

I don't believe wild horses and burros are taking anything from squirrels, mule deer (I've seen them grazing with wild horses – the same wild horses that allow the cattle water before they have any), and pollinators and are much better for the land than the cattle that completely outnumber them.

Another thing I've heard over the years is "protecting the sage grouse" and talked to people that live out on the land and have never seen one, it's on an Endangered List and BEING HUNTED?! That's pretty clear right there who's got a hand in this. Additionally, wasn't impressed with the one-sided "thesis type" document. I have listened to other "professionals" and feel like everything prepared for this meeting is a win-win for private interest coalitions and groups = hunting, ranching+ and not for all the citizens and taxpayers of Nevada and our country.

If I'm right, the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands+ consists of around 500 people, apparently speaking for All Taxpayers since they're also govt agencies, but seemingly more of a special interest group, and has a mission statement saying "to ensure . . . for over 700 species of wildlife, free roaming horses and burros" making it sound like they're supportive of the horses and burros, but have proven they're not by asking to have 75% of them removed with no regard to how they are treated.

For all these reasons I Strongly Oppose support of the Coalition For Healthy Lands Letter to Tracy Stone-Manning, any further roundups and anyone else who supports the roundups. The wild horses are a BENEFIT to our state in the way of Tourism, Business, Art, Enjoyment, Mental Health, Quality of Life, and Education.

Nevada citizens looking out for our own interests now, knowing we can't expect that from those we trusted and supported before.

Keep Nevada Wild and Free!!!

Taunee Jensen
5th Generation Nevadan – Taxpaying Citizen

cc: Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, BLM



wildHORSE

Adventures of Nevada

