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TO: Mr. Randy SWICK

FROM: GARNET PASQUALE

FAX NUMBER: (702) 515-5447

SENDER'S PHONE #: 702-458-1977

DATE: July 15, 2013

OF PAGES: 10

CUSTOMER'S NOTES:

*Spring Mountain National Recreational Area
Complex Scoping Comments*

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Garnet Pasquale
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July 15, 2013

Mr Randy Swick, Area Manager
Spring Mountain National Recreation Area
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Via Facsimile: (702) 515-5447

Re: SM Complex Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Swick:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the very important project, that if carried out as in the past, will affect very large percentage of the only remaining Wild Horses and Burros in Southern Nevada. I sincerely believe that would be a tragic mistake.

As immediate past president of America's Wild Horse Advocates (5 years) and Director Elect of America's Wild Horse Advocates and the Spring Mountain Alliance, I have had the opportunity to not only observe first-hand the way these animals are misunderstood and misrepresented by governmental agencies.

However, they are not misunderstood by local citizens and tourists from all over the world. That is why there is a huge local volunteer base just waiting for the opportunity to assist the BLM and USFS in managing these precious resources.

In the past five years, I have also read 100's of pages of FOIA documents that were requested and received by our organization from both the BLM and USFS, some of which date back to mid-2000s. With a few exceptions, those documents are incomplete and do not really document much of anything. They only serve to confirm what I have always believed: the only management goal for the Wild Horse and Burro Program is for removal.

Because the USFS is not usually the lead agency on this issue and the fact that you personally are new to our area, I am going to list *just a few* examples that you would not otherwise be aware of.

- The January 2007 Spring Mountain Complex Gather Report states that 34 mares were fertility treated. (See Attachment #1)
At no time since that gather, has anyone of the many observers (on both-sides of the mountain) ever seen more than 3 mares with the fertility marker on her left-rear hip. Where are the other 31?
Also, in the 6+ years since that gather no follow-up on the treated mares by agency personnel has been observed.
- In early February 2011, a small family of Wild Horses' lead stallion and lead mare were hit by a car very early in the morning on the Cold Creek road. The stallion was killed on impact and the mare had a

broken back leg. A call was made to the BLM to come and put her out of her misery. No one showed up until afternoon. She (and everyone who observed it) were made to suffer all that time.

About a week later a foal from that same band was hit and killed in the same place. Both drivers were Cold Creek residents rushing to work.

It was at that time AWA formed a weekend road patrol to alert people to: not only slow down, but to also not feed the horse. We did this thru April of 2011. See attachment #2 A & 2 B

Beginning in March 2011, the residents of Cold Creek pushed for signs along the road, which they had been promised for over 10 years. While the signs are miniscule compared to the ones on the Blue Diamond loop, they were eventually put up in late summer. To my knowledge no other horses have been hit on that road since that time.

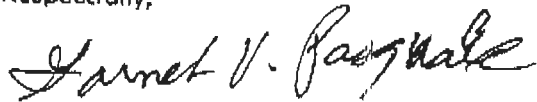
- On a weekend morning in early July 2012 a stallion came into center of the village of a Cold Creek with a broken leg from a fight. Again the BLM was called, more than once; eventually a Metro officer came to put him down. But he did not have the proper firearm or ammunition and had to fire several times. All the time while the residents, weekenders, and their children were watching. This is unacceptable.
- We are aware that there are Wild Horses out of the HMA and in Lee and Kyle Canyons. We agree they should not be there. But no attempt has been made to keep them from going there, or to remove them and relocate them back within their HMA. This example alone is where citizen volunteers could make a big contribution instead of just leaving them there and complaining about it until the next big helicopter gather. Note: a fence was planned to prevent this in 2007, but was never built and I believe it is the area (near McFarland Peak) that is now being scoped *again* for the same reason. See attachment # 3.
- No conclusive documents have ever been provided to prove what is eating the forage. It is just always blamed on the horses and burros. The numerous elk, deer and rabbits are never considered.
- Other misconceptions are:
The wild horses and burros foal the water-ways. That is completely false. They do not defecate in the water and almost always stay at the water area for a very short time. We have a time-stamped photo collage of a wild horse band going to the large pond, drinking, and leaving within an 8 minute time-span.
- The wild horses do not keep the elk and deer from water or forage. They usually graze in different day parts, the horses in daylight and the elk and deer under cover of darkness, as they are much more skittish. When they both have been observed in daylight they peacefully coexist in close proximity. We also have photos of that.
- The area is called the Spring Mountain National **Recreational** Area. Viewing and photographing wildlife, including wild horses and burros, is considered recreation by some people, just as hiking, fishing, off-road riding, etc. is considered recreation by others. The agencies are always talking "manage for multiple use". It far past time for the wild horses and burros, and those who enjoy them to get their fair share.
- The weekender ATV riders cause much more damage to the area than all the horses put together could ever do.

- In closing I would like to call your attention to the fact that: at the March 5, 2013 Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board meeting in Oklahoma City one of the recommendation of the Board to the BLM was:

to develop Eco-Tourism sites where wild horses and burros could be accessible for viewing by the public on the open range. The BLM has accepted that recommendation (as well as others from that meeting.) See page 2 of the June issue of the National Mustang Association Mustang newsletter - attachment # 4.

There is no better place in the entire world to do that -- than the Spring Mountains of Southern Nevada.

Respectfully,



Garnet Pasquale

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Spring Mountains Complex Gather REPORT

DAILY TOTALS

Date	# captured	# released	# shipped	# died/destroyed	# Fertility Treated Mares
1/3/07	125 B	0	0		
1/4/07	24 B	0	103 B	1 B	0
1/5/07	0	0	45 B	0	0
1/6/07	55 B	0	0	0	0
1/7/07	108 WH	0	55 B	0	0
1/8/07	87 WH 1 Mule	0	80 WH	3 WH	0
1/9/07	29 WH	0	44 WH	0	0
1/10/07	41 WH	0	46 WH	0	0
1/11/07	0	45 WH 1 Mule	36 WH	0	21
1/12/07	86 B	0	0	0	0
1/13/07	65 B	0	53 B	0	0
1/14/07	40 WH 8 B	1 WH	98 B	0	0
1/15/07	28 WH	0	0	0	0
1/16/07	11 WH	0	44 WH	0	0
1/17/07	27 B	*29 WH	0	0	0
1/18/07	24 WH	0	14 WH 35 B	1 WH	13
1/19/07	10 B	0	0	0	0
1/20/07	108 B	0	24 WH 10 B	0	0
1/21/07	44 B	0	0	0	0
1/22/07	23 B	3 B	160 B	0	0
1/23/07		0	0	0	0
1/24/07		0	0	0	0
1/25/07		0	12 B	0	0
1/26/07		0	0	0	0

Totals to date

368 WH 1 Mule 575 B	75 WH 1 Mule 3 B	288 WH 571 B	5	34
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- 1 captured horse was titled and turned over to the State Brand Inspector in Pahrump.

LA

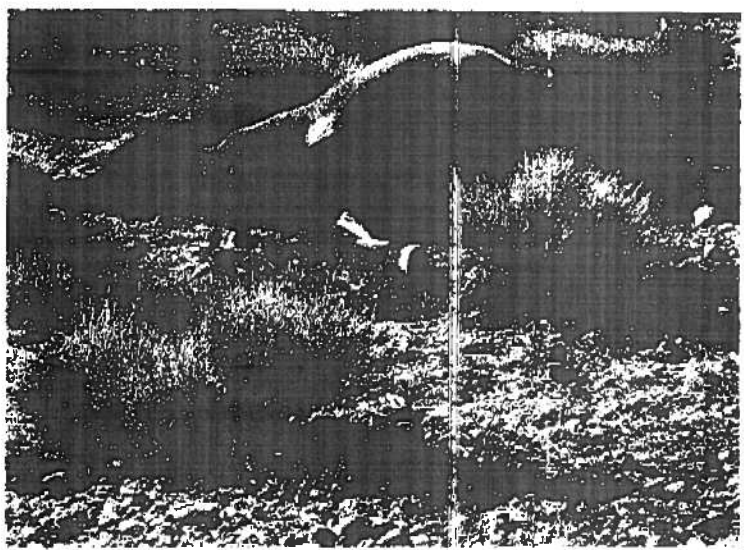
PROTECT OUR WILD HORSES

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

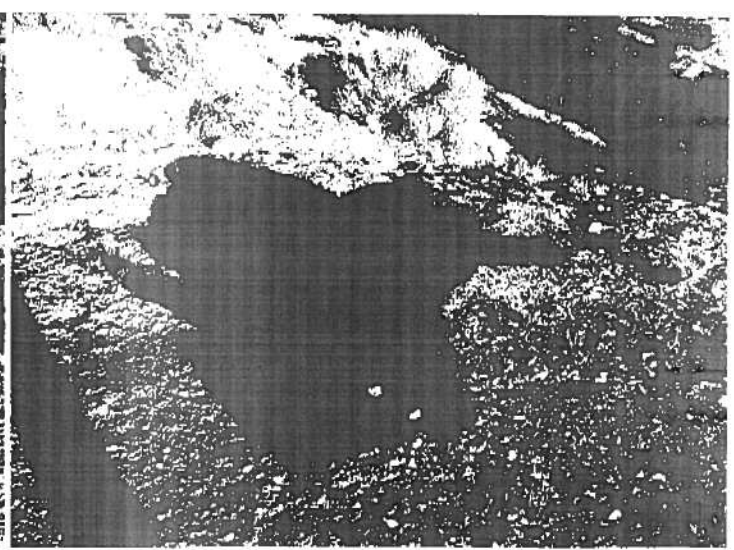
DO NOT FEED THE HORSES

Please be aware that there is a \$500 fine for feeding animals.

THESE HORSES WERE STRUCK BY CARS BECAUSE THEY CAME TO STAND ON THE ROAD FOR TREATS.



Band Stallion died, Feb. 2011



Foal died, Feb. 2011

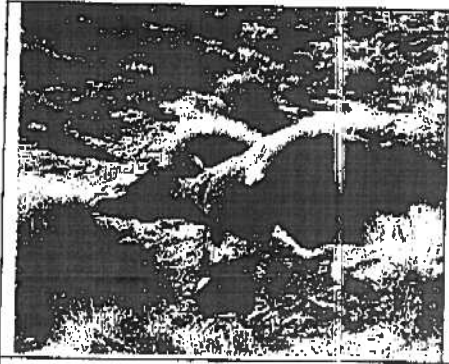


Lead Mare, Feb. 2011. Right hind leg broken. Piece of hide torn off flank.

PEOPLE ARE KILLING WILD HORSES IN COLD CREEK

2B

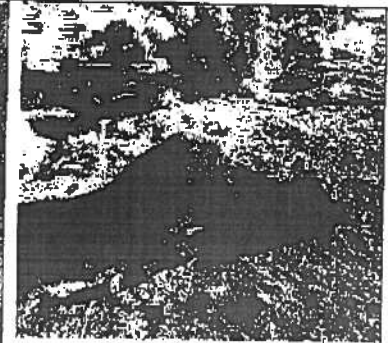
YOU CAN STOP IT!



Lead stallion slowly died of injuries.
Car totaled, distressed driver ok.



His lead mare with broken legwaits 3
hours in agony before being shot.



Just days later, a nursing foal
dies – damaged car fled.

3 HORSES were KILLED by 2 CARS in 1 week of FEBRUARY 2011 – another 5 hit & died in 2010!

WHY?

Because people stop by the road to take pictures or feed them hay, carrots, apples. Some wild horses have learned to approach cars for handouts and stay close to the paved road where they are a danger to motorists – *and themselves!*

When horses are hit by a car, no one can put them out of their misery until the BLM arrives which can take 1-3 hours! Their family stays close by and can be hit. Someday a person will be injured or killed.

HORSE FEEDERS & LAZY PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE

PLEASE SAVE HORSES & PEOPLE!

IF YOU STOP TO PHOTOGRAPH HORSES: please walk *far from a road* before you snap a picture. But it would be wiser if you go down dirt roads or by the ponds to photograph them away from speeding cars.

DO NOT FEED HORSES & BURROS: The fine is \$500! Worse, wild horses do kick each other if they are competing for a handout. A kick could kill or maim you or your children. And the horses that came for your handouts may get hit *after you leave!* If the deaths continue, the BLM could insist on removing them to pens. **They will lose their Freedom FOREVER.**

COLD CREEK IS A RARE PLACE IN NEVADA WHERE THE PUBLIC CAN STILL ENJOY WILD HORSES & BURROS ROAMING FREE. You can keep it that way.

DON'T APPROACH WILD HORSES NEAR THE ROADS! DON'T FEED THEM! PLEASE.

For more information, go to www.awha.info

Wild Horse Management Outside of Lee Canyon

SOPA Jan-March 2007

Purpose of Project

The purpose of the project is to manage wild horses on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area to be within designated Wild Horse Territories and not in the sensitive resource areas of Lee Canyon. Lee Canyon is not within a Wild Horse Territory and has had Wild Horses in the Canyon for several years. The Lee Meadows horses will be removed through a planned gather in January 2007 and active management from that point will aid in ensuring wild horses returned to the Cold Creek Area will not find their way back into Lee Canyon.

Proposed Action

The project includes the construction of approximately 50 meters of Buck and Pole fence in the upper reaches of McFarland Canyon. The location was chosen based on topography. The canyon is very steep and narrow at this location and therefore requires the least intrusive amount of fence, approximately 50 meters. The location of the fence is within the Mt. Charleston Wilderness. Natural materials would be used and materials would be brought to the site by person and/or pack stock. No mechanized or mechanical means would be used for any part of the project, keeping within the Wilderness rules and regulations. Locating the fence outside of Wilderness would require constructing over six miles to be effective in keeping the wild horses from crossing into Lee Canyon. The general management Plan for the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area provides direction that fences may be constructed within Wilderness to assist in the management of wild horses.

THIS PROJECT WAS NOT IMPLEMENTED AS OF 12-3-2010



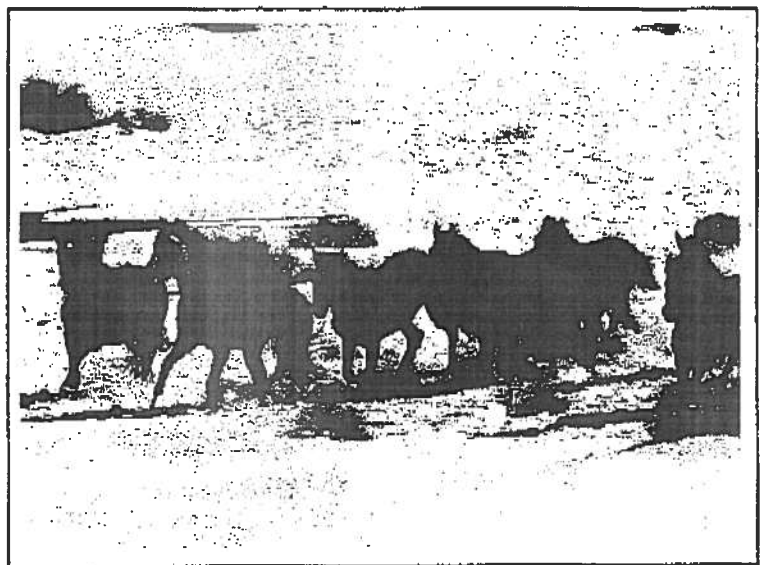
SWASEY GATHER

Two NMA Board members attended a gather of wild horses recently. The whole process went smoothly. Pens are set up the day before the gather in a location for easy access for the horses. Helicopters were used to herd each band into the pens. The skill used by the operators of the helicopters was very professional. They kept a good distance from the horses but were still able to keep them going in the right direction at an easy trot. As each group was brought in they are loaded on to trailers and transported to temporary corrals. They are then sorted as to sex and mares with foals. The entire process is observed by an independent veterinarian.



Most of the horses were in fair condition.

At this gather 262 horses were captured. Forty nine mares were treated with fertility drugs and returned to their natural habitat as well as forty nine studs. They remainder will be put into the adoption program and those that are not adopted will go to long term holding facilities where they will live out their lives in a natural environment.



Ninty-eight horses were returned to their natural habitat.

The Herd Management Area (HMA) that is their home has been assessed to carry 60 to 100 horses. Before the gather there were approximately 350 horses on that range. After the gather and release of horses there is still about 186 head. Although most of the horses were in fair condition it is anticipated that the resources for this summer will not be plentiful and this was a preventive measure to ensure they did not suffer from lack of feed or water. The horses still on the range will be monitored to make sure they are surviving okay.

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board recently met in Oklahoma City. These meetings are held in different parts of the country so the Board members can observe operations in a variety of places. Among the recommendations made to the BLM by the Board are the following:

To develop eco-tourism sites. These would be sites where wild horse would be accessible for tourists to view on the open range. There would also be an educational part that would help people become more familiar with the horses and their environment.

Establish non-reproducing herds that are currently in short term holding facilities. These horses would be either geldings or mares. There are areas known as Wild Horse Herd Management Areas (HMA) where horses have been removed for various reasons. It is the Board's contention that non-reproducing horses could be re-introduced thus allowing the horses to return to their natural environment without the possibility of increasing the numbers.

That the BLM increase focus on adoptions in the Eastern states. There are many who would like to adopt but since the horses are in the West it is difficult for potential adopters to see the horses.

The Board proposes that holding centers be established where groups of horses could be transported and held for adoption. Virtual adoption on the internet should also be considered.

A group should be formed to look at the resource itself and how horses interact with the habitat. Resources include forage, water and terrain.

Another group will look into more permanent ways to decrease reproduction. The current methods are temporary and require that the horses be gathered again and again.

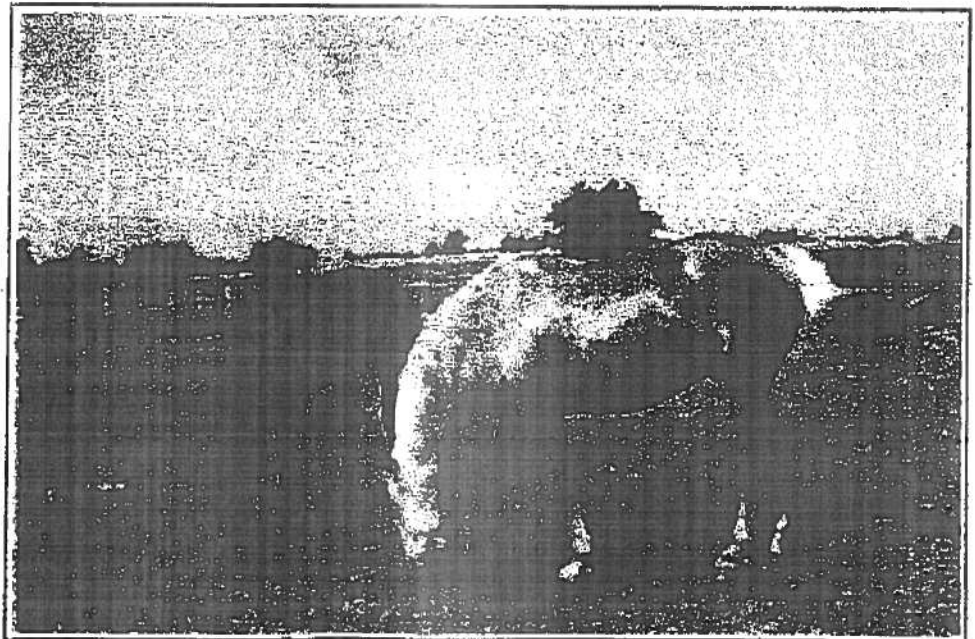
* The BLM has agreed to accept these recommendations and will work with the various agency departments to establish criteria.

The main purpose of the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board is to establish ways to balance the horse numbers with the ability of the land to support them.

PAULS VALLEY WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTION CENTER

Stretching across 200 acres of land covered with lush green grass, the Pauls Valley Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Center provides wild horses and burros with a natural and safe environment before their placement in new homes.

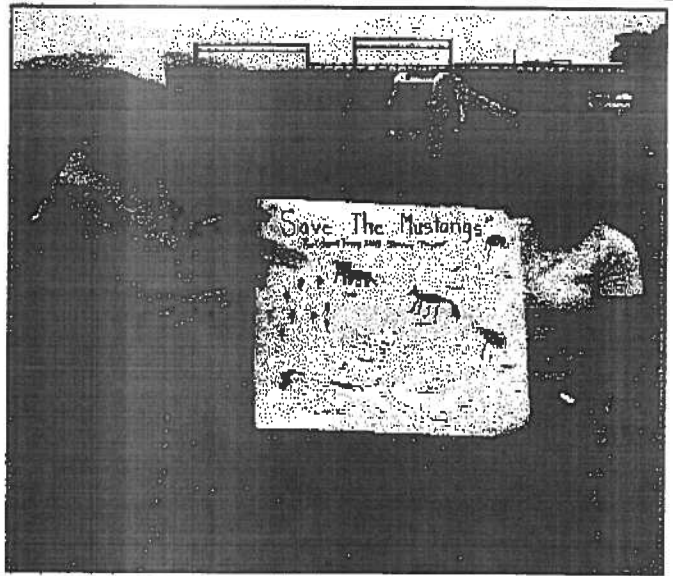
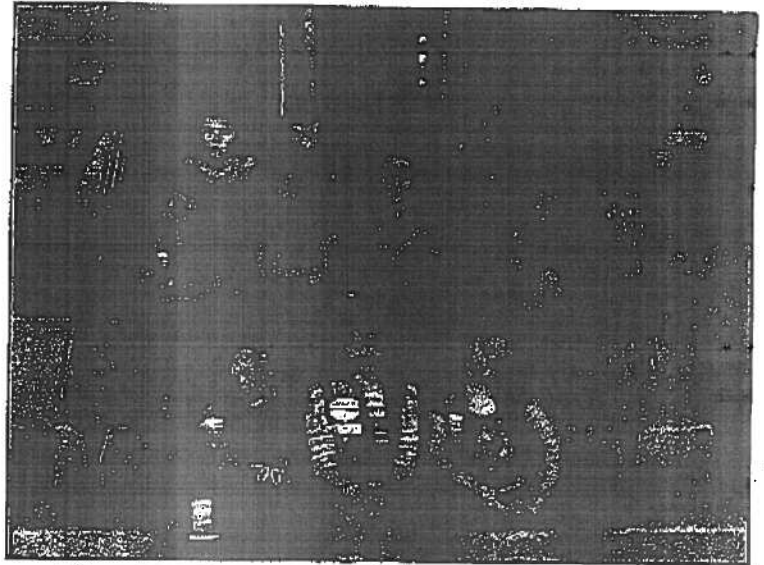
The lands on which the wild horses and burros graze are divided into eight pastures, which can hold a maximum of 500 animals. The number of animals residing on-site varies throughout the year, depending on the number of BLM adoption events held in other states. Equipped to care for the animals on a daily basis, the facility is also set up to provide emergency care when needed. The center is located approximately 45 miles south of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Wild horses and burros on public lands are recognized as a "living legacy" of the West. Over the course of BLM's 30-year adoption program, more than 185,000 animals have found their way into the hearts of recreational riders, as well as western and English show arenas. Burros have been successfully used as guard and companion animals, as well as for mountain packing. (Feran Revard-Anderson, BLM Oklahoma Field Office)

GIRL SCOUTS GIVE GIFT

Girl Scout Troop 2147 sold cookies and raised \$300 with a goal in mind. They wanted to use it to feed the horses so they contacted the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Because they are not allowed to accept funds, the BLM told the troop about the National Mustang Association and they were happy that the money could be used to feed the horses. As the girls have limited abilities, it was not possible for them to travel the distance to deliver the donation themselves, so their leader, Laura Traum, presented the check to NMA Director Gale Bennett. It is always very gratifying to see young people have an interest in the wild horses. We are very grateful for their efforts and thoughtful donation and will be sending them a thank you letter, Adoption Certificate as well as a photograph of one of the horses that will be helped by their hard work and good will.



E-mail: mustangs@infowest.com • www.nmautah.org

NATIONAL MUSTANG ASSOCIATION, INC. • P.O. BOX 1367 • CEDAR CITY, UTAH 84721

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