



**ANIMAL
PROTECTION
INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA**

*Winnemucca Dist
File*

*2-22-80
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February 22, 1980

Chester E. Conard
District Manager
Nevada State Office
Bureau of Land Management
705 East 4th Street
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

Dear Mr. Conard:

I'm looking back at your letter of January 8 and recollecting two things about it which I had intended to go into with you earlier.

The call we received on the roundup south of Winnemucca was to ascertain if we desired to witness the roundup should it come about.

I replied that we did and it was stated that we would be informed later on physical arrangements for getting persons to the site. I lost track of this personally but have inquired and determined that apparently no one heard further.

Now our position as to the necessity of this roundup was by no means settled--nor do we have any single and universal position on roundups when this contact was made. Indeed, we suggested we would have representatives for the purpose of getting a more first-hand idea both of conditions in general and of this roundup in particular.

While API does approve of an adoption program for wild horses as preferable to their miscellaneous killing, we also believe that it is quite possible and even probable that the roundups will at times be over-used or undertaken to alleviate unfair pressures from ranchers and state officials and others. Therefore we have no attitude fixed in stone, had none on this roundup but believe each case is separate and in general believe that the wild horses could be left as unmoles- ted as possible with round-up adoptions simply as the horses' Court of Last Resort.

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Wyoming

February 22, 1980

Now what I am saying here is quite different from what you state to me is our position in your letter of January 8. It would appear to me that your letter intended, among other things, to show that API was supporting a particular action and in fact that was not the case so I would not want you to mislead yourself in that respect.

It is our intent to continue to monitor what happens on public lands in respect to wild horses--or, for that matter, what happens to them as they reach private hands. We cannot have an attitude as simple as, "Never round up a horse," or "whatever the BLM says is fine with us" because, and in fact, the survival question has become so complex that anyone commenting requires a complete education on the particular case before it is sensible to state what most benefits the horse and still leaves humans in a reasonable position.

Since you apparently are reflecting our attitude in your files, I would state that API believes that adoption is a way out when there is no other way out; that the roundups have probably been overdone in various places; that we believe the guardianship over adoptions is likely improving though it still needs watching by the BLM as well as organizations like our own; that we would have had a position in the Winnemucca case only after a much closer look; that we do wish to be contacted in advance of roundups for an opportunity to take a closeup look; that we wonder why we didn't hear back from Mr. Bryan; that the statement in your letter as to the position of Dawn Lappin of WHOA! seems too broad even though Mrs. Lappin, like ourselves, does see the adoptions as a release valve in an extremity; and that, while we often take a stand similar or synonymous to WHOA!, this is not always so and that neither WHOA! nor ourselves would expect to be represented by the other's opinion. Where we agree, we coordinate. I think the issue of the wild horses will go through many chapters still and I hope that the BLM will understand there is increasing interest and support, from throughout the United States, for seeing that great numbers of wild horses are left in a state of Nature and not manipulated to the point where what we have are a few park animals, period.

Now if all this sounds rather gruff, I don't mean it unkindly but merely to straighten out what might be a misimpression left by your letter to us since our position is certainly a bit different than where you put us.

Let me pose something different to you. There should be a vast long-range plan for the horses of the American West--and all the wild creatures out there--which looks forward to the dedication of some mighty and undisturbed territories where they can range and mate in the greatest freedom without having to adapt to every subdevelopment that comes along. When is the Bureau going to have half a dozen responsible persons representing the conservation section sit down with some of the chief planners of the BLM and set a course, if only

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in a very preliminary way, which all concerned can agree would represent a future worth working toward? The way it's going, the horses will be pushed up against one wall and then another, and eventually there will be very few left and the BLM, as much as anyone else, will be very sorry they are gone. I think the present conduct of policy means that, wherever the horses are prolific, the yell will be, "Too many," and wherever the cry comes, "Too many," someone will say, "Adopt them out," and wherever they are adopted out, that will become the order of the day and we are fast approaching the point where the horses will be everywhere at a controlled minimum, and prolific nowhere, and even though we will be able to point to surviving specimens and say, "Ah! we saved them!" in fact the grander fight to preserve a significant percentage of their original freedom will have been lost.

My own guess is that the most serious persons, including yourself, in your own department, know this to be true and should be on a course with ourselves, with WHOA!, with many wilderness-loving families of the West and the East and all over to see that this is not the way it turns out, after all. I know that you probably have to jump fast, like someone hopping from bullets at his feet, to keep out of the way of all the cattlemen interests; and probably feel the conservation people are about as bad. But in fact, everybody--even the big range-owners--should recognize that they are going to regret the Driving Out process, however subtly it is accomplished in particular cases.

When there is a serious readiness to make a plan, serving all the people of the West and all the horses too, then we would like to sit down and see if a reasoning strategy, satisfying to the American people at large, could not be developed with full specifications on where the horses will be, and what the numbers will be, in, say, the year 1995.

Instead of stacking up defensive position papers, why don't all of us work toward that?

Most sincerely,

Ted Crail
Creative Services

TC/erb

CC: Dawn Lappin ✓