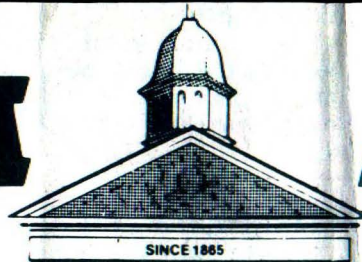


9/2/88

NEVADA



APPEAL

Friday

Fair, variable winds
lows 55-60 tonight

More weather information on A-7

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Wild horse group raps BLM officials

News of mustang deaths sent to campaigns

By BRIAN MCKENZIE
Appeal Correspondent

AUSTIN — Word has spread of the shooting of 41 wild horses in a remote area north of Austin to both presidential campaign camps.

Southern Nevada Humane Society Director Dart Anthony has asked representatives of both presidential nominees to look at the current handling of wild horses in Nevada.

The Nevada Appeal spoke this morning with a representative of Republican George Bush's campaign staff about the wild horse

shootings.

The staff member, who spoke only on the condition of anonymity, said "at this point unless there is more national news coverage of the shootings and the total wild horse issue there would be no official stance or comment."

No one at Democratic campaign headquarters could be reached for comment on the issue.

The shootings also have come

under fire from a national group, the Wild Horse Organized Assistance.

On Thursday the group's director, Dawn Lappin, charged that Bureau of Land Management investigators were slow to begin their investigation into reports of the horses' deaths.

Lappin also criticized "apparent confusion over the correct numbers of horses killed."

The remains of 13 wild horses were first reported to the BLM Aug. 5 by a Battle Mountain helicopter pilot who was flying in the area. It was three weeks before BLM law enforcement officers flew to the site.

BLM field personnel from the Battle Mountain District office conducted several air and ground searches between Aug. 6-17 and discovered a total of 33 dead horses.

Eight more carcasses were discovered during the next several days.

On Wednesday BLM Public Affairs Chief Bob Stewart reported a total of 44 horses had died but on-site field personnel confirmed only 41 carcasses had been found.

BLM wild horse and burro specialist Rodger Bryan said he drove to the location the next day but could not locate any of the carcasses.

es.

On Aug. 8, Bryan said he flew over the area and located three of the carcasses. On a subsequent flyover of the area on Aug. 17, he found the remains of an additional 17 horses.

The carcasses of 13 wild horses were first discovered by a helicopter pilot flying over the remote area, about 25 miles north of Austin on Aug. 4.

The pilot reported his find to BLM officials in Battle Mountain who in turn unsuccessfully tried to contact

(See HORSES, Page A-8)