

3-11-75

March 11, 1975

Mrs. Tilly Barling,
Natural Resources Specialist,
Department of the Navy,
Naval Weapons Center,
China Lake, California 93555

Dear Tilly:

A friend has forwarded to me the information that the Audubon Society has been invited by Admiral R. G. Freeman III to attend a two-day, on-the-spot inspection tour on the desert near Ridgecrest April 12th & 13th. Do you think I, too, could take that tour, or do you think it would be better for me to wait until some time when it is not such a "formal" occasion, or when I am specifically asked? I am depending on your good judgment.

Guess you know we've been "up the wall" since the New Mexico decision. Mustangers were preparing for massive operations until it was all brought to a screeching halt by issuance of the temporary stay. BLM here had planned a reduction of 400 in that area the National Advisory Board toured last September and have called upon us for conferences and even participation. We will help, of course. But in that area, a rancher had received permission from the Board of County Commissioners to take out 800, posted his bond, and was trying, I was informed, to hire gunmen to go out and start shooting. That is what the New Mexico decision meant to him, and how he intended to take advantage of it.

I know you know, Tilly, there is a sensible and equitable way this canall be worked out, but the ranchers have had their own way for so long, they cannot or will not recognize there is any other.

Best wishes.

Cordially,

Velma B. Johnston (Mrs. Charles C.)
Chairman - Board of Trustees

WHOA!

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Please know how personally delighted I am at your decision to contribute to our special fund for WHOA!'s growth in membership.

Your receipt is enclosed and a copy of our advertisement which is appearing in metropolitan newspapers throughout the country.

With the help of friends like you, we can REALLY get things done!

Again, our sincere thanks.

Most sincerely,

Wild Horse Annie
Mrs. Velma B. Johnston
Chairman - Board of Trustees

VBJ/hr
Enclosures

