

9/19/02 Beverlee

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September 19, 2002

**VIA FACSIMILE and EMAIL**

Mr. John E. Fend, Group Manager  
National Wild Horse and Burro Program (WO-260)  
1849 C St., NW; Mail Stop 204LS  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Fend:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your email to Merle Edsall. As you may be aware from Mr. Edsall, I represent Johannes von Trapp, who is working with Mr. Edsall on the Sonora Wild Horse Sanctuary Project. (the "Sonora Project").

In your email, you referenced the need for a treaty or new law based on an internal memo. I read the memorandum drafted by the Associate Solicitor for Energy and Resources, dated Nov. 27, 1989. (the "Memo"). The Memo discusses issues related to the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (PL 92-195) (the "Act"). The Memo draws a rational conclusion in response to "several questions about circumstances under which the Secretary might make a gift of wild horses to one or more foreign governments." Given the lack of a specific proposal or program, the Memo's conclusion certainly offers a fair interpretation of public policy relative to adoption or gifting of horses. In fact, the legal conclusions drawn under those particular circumstances, as they existed in 1989, are almost unnecessary based on the facts, or lack of facts, presented. The Memo presented no public policy, no well thought out proposal and no sound financial considerations to base a different conclusion.

The Sonora project is not prohibited by the Act. The 1989 memo is inapplicable to the Sonora Sanctuary Proposal which you, along with the Wild Horse Advisory Board and others at the BLM, have been reviewing over the past several months. The Sonora project seeks a long term holding contract and bears little resemblance to the incipient suggestion of gifting horses that was presented in the 1980s. The grant of a holding contract is well within BLM's discretion.

Moreover, among the range of options given to the BLM to exercise, in its discretion, the Sonora project is exactly the type of project that ideally suits the needs of BLM, while furthering the policy goals of the Act.

Nothing in the Act precludes housing excess horses in a sanctuary such as the Sonora project. In fact, nothing in the Act expressly calls for horse sanctuaries and/or long term holding contracts off public lands. Still, the BLM has developed this solution in implementing the Act pursuant to its discretionary authority. 16 U.S.C. §1333(b)(1)(the Secretary shall "determine whether appropriate management levels should be achieved by the removal or destruction of excess animals, or *other options*") (emphasis added).

Indeed, the Act gives only limited examples of activities to further the policy of conducting herd management activities "at the minimal feasible level . . . in order to protect the natural ecological balance of all wildlife species which inhabit [these] lands." Generally, the Act suggests only "destruction" of older or unwanted excess horses or "adoption" with title eventually passing to the adopter. Fortunately, the BLM's thinking on "other options" has humanely evolved from the limited options specifically enunciated in the Act ("destruction" or "adoption") to maintaining excess horses in other facilities when care for the horses is otherwise unavailable. The issue is not, therefore, where the horses can be kept. Rather, the only issue is whether a sanctuary provider or other contractor can humanely provide, to the Secretary's satisfaction, sufficient facilities to properly and humanely maintain the excess horses.

Ironically, and in contrast to the concerns raised in the Memo, BLM will have more control and oversight over the excess horses kept at the Sonora Sanctuary than the horses titled away in, for instance, the adoption program. Once title passes, the horse owner/adopter has relative free reign. Excess horses maintained pursuant to a long term holding contract, on the other hand, are maintained pursuant to BLM's contractual control for the life of the horse.

Mr. Edsall has been extremely forthcoming about his intentions, plans, resources and his proposed solution to assist BLM in alleviating both its excess horse holding problems and escalating expenses. It is interesting to note that several horse advocacy groups, for reasons only they can explain and in light of this particular proposal, have specifically asked Congress to adopt language that would prohibit BLM from authorizing a holding contract outside of the United States. Many of these groups spend considerable time and attention on this matter, and their explicit acknowledgment of BLM's authority to exercise options such as the Sonora Sanctuary, as evidence by their push to take that authority away, is telling.

The Sonora project represents an opportunity for BLM to further its mandate to humanely care for the needs of excess horses. The Sonora project is especially timely given the current exigencies of drought, fire, over-grazing and the growing shortage of suitable pastureland. Your consideration of this project, on its merits and in furtherance of the discretion afforded to BLM under the Act, is greatly appreciated.

Mr. John E. Fend, Group Manager

September 19, 2002

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Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. I look forward to meeting you, with Mr. Edsall, Mr. von Trapp and Mr. De Hoyos, next week.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin F. Leahy

kfl:mgt

BTV/225230.1

**Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board Meeting**  
Denver, CO – August 27, 2002



**Sonora Wild Horse  
Repatriation Project**



Adjacent to the Arizona border is a Mexico few Americans have ever seen. This is ranch country, some of the prettiest on the planet. This is land of the proposed Los Ajos-Bavispe Biosphere Reserve. At a population density of only three people per square mile and with a biodiversity coveted by environmentalists, it is ideal setting for the pasture and care of America's wild horses.

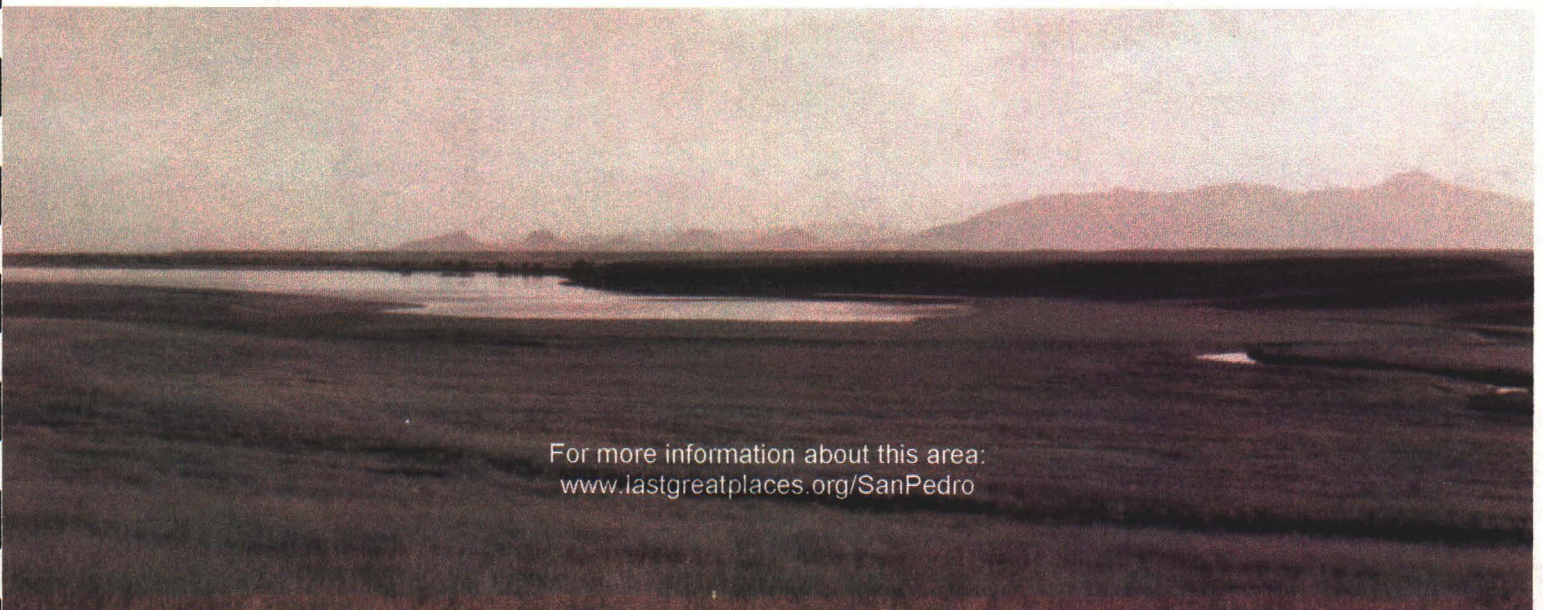
**Abundant Private Property** – Unlike the United States, there is little public land in Mexico. Government ownership

of land in the northern state of Sonora is confined largely to tracts of uninhabited desert or the inaccessible ridges of mountain ranges. Most property is privately held, or in the hands of communal *Ejid*os. The raising of crops and livestock is the predominant livelihood.

**Skilled Labor** – Historians have acknowledged Sonora as the place where vaqueros, ranching, and western equestrians skills originated. Since the time of the Spanish Conquest, this area has been renowned for its livestock and horsemanship, traditions still perpetuated and honored.

**Productive Landscape and Temperate Climate** – “High chaparral” or “oak savannah” best describes the landscape, with an average annual rainfall of 16 to 22 inches and a temperate climate that means a nearly year-round growing season. A variety of annual and perennial forages, along with forbs and browse, provide quality nutrition. There is little need for supplemental feeding at any time of year. Oak, pine, and mesquite trees are widely distributed to provide shelter from severe weather conditions, but are not so dense as to obscure visibility for observation. Snow and cold weather is never a problem.

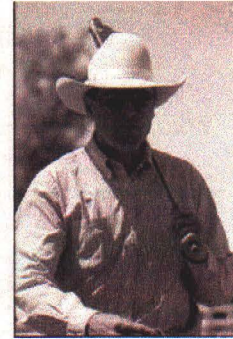
For more information about this area:  
[www.lastgreatplaces.org/SanPedro](http://www.lastgreatplaces.org/SanPedro)



# The partners...

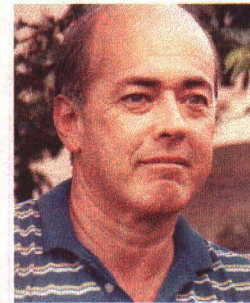
## Merle Edsall – Avon, Montana

- ▶ Cowboy, Rancher
- ▶ Montana businessman
- ▶ Horse and People Trainer



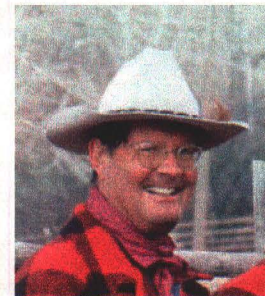
## Humberto de Hoyos – Cananea, Sonora

- ▶ Civil Engineering degree – U of Arizona
- ▶ Sonoran ranch owner
- ▶ Cananea businessman
- ▶ Chamber of Industry President



## Johannes von Trapp – Stowe, Vermont

- ▶ Destination Resort Owner
- ▶ Dartmouth and Yale Forestry School graduate
- ▶ Former rancher
- ▶ Former resident of Mexico

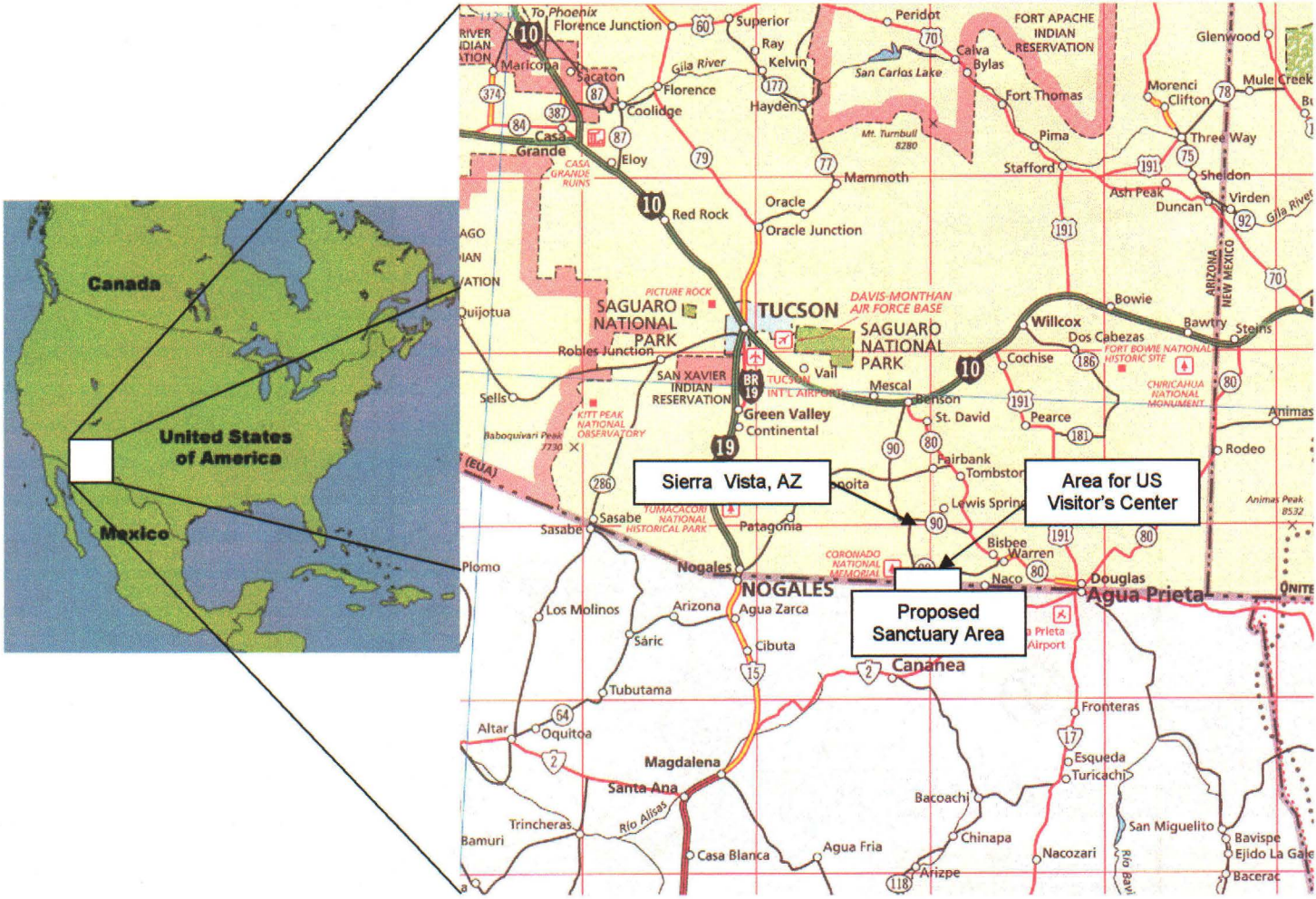


## Philip Edsall – San Antonio, Texas

- ▶ Montana native
- ▶ Lt. Colonel USAF (retired)
- ▶ McDonnell-Douglas Corp. VP (retired)

*Avenida Guerrero #160 – Colonia Estadio – Cananea, Sonora 84620 - 011-52(645)332-4693  
For US mail to Sonora: P.O. Box 1381- Hereford, AZ 85615  
e-mail: [El\\_Moro\\_50@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:El_Moro_50@prodigy.net.mx)*

# Proposed Geographic Location



The figure shows a map of North America and a zoom-in of the Arizona – Sonora border region. The map shows the proposed location of the Sanctuary Area just south of the border and the available area for a US Visitor's Center.

The proposed area is entirely located within the Free Trade Zone, a 100 km wide belt extending along the border.



Los Nutrias (tributary of the San Pedro River)

Landscape on Rancho Los Nutrias





# Benefits of doing business in Sonora

## **1. AN ABUNDANCE OF SUITABLE LAND.**

- Rolling oak savannahs
- Surface and subsurface water
  - San Pedro River and tributaries
  - Santa Cruz River and tributaries
  - Many natural lakes and reservoirs
- Temperate elevation (4,000' – 5,500')
- Adequate rainfall
  - Monsoon season
  - Winter rains
- Soils vary from rocky to sandy loam
  - Natural hoof wear

## **2. FREE-TRADE AREA.**

- "Unrestricted" travel
- 24-hour crossing
- Designed for American commerce

## **3. LABOR FORCE.**

- High unemployment
- Skilled labor
- Bilingual

## **4. EQUINE HEALTH.**

- Sonora is the only state in Mexico which is brucellosis and TB free
- There are no equine health problems in Sonora (therefore some concerns about U.S. horses coming to Sonora exist).

## **5. SECURITY.**

- Existing Law Enforcement
  - Mexican military
  - Sonora State Police
  - Highway Patrol
  - Local Police
  - Livestock Inspectors
  - US Drug Enforcement Administration
- Sonora Wild Horse Sanctuary
  - Air surveillance
  - Ground security

Tucson to Cananea  
3 Hour drive

Arizona

"ranches" of varying  
sizes and locales

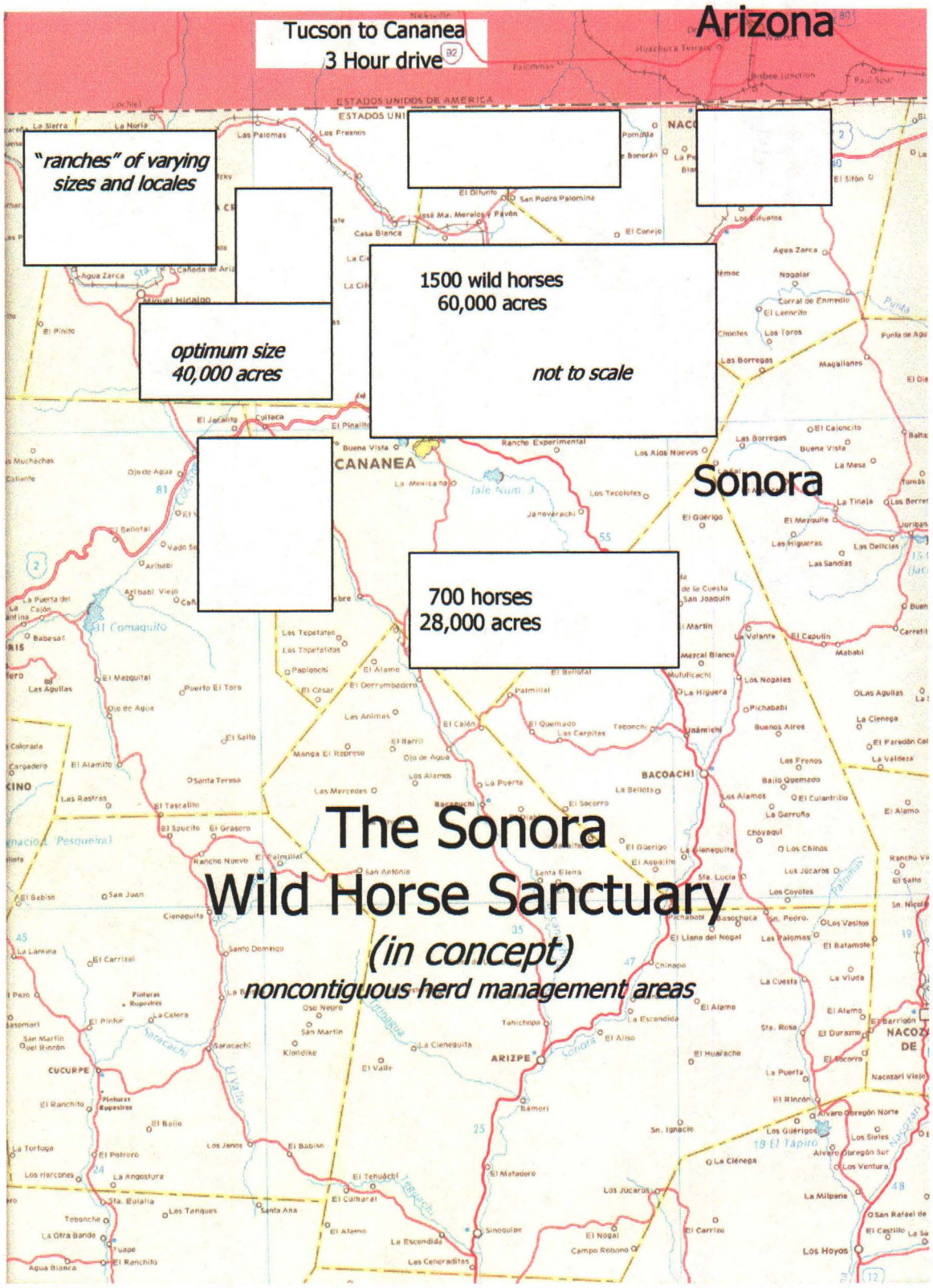
optimum size  
40,000 acres

1500 wild horses  
60,000 acres  
  
not to scale

700 horses  
28,000 acres

# The Sonora Wild Horse Sanctuary (in concept)

*noncontiguous herd management areas*



# Management Outline

- 40 acres or 16 hectares/horse
  - Creates a "grassbank"
    - 25 acres/cow-calf pair  
(official ratio for this area)
  
- "Small Ranches"
  - Non-contiguous
  - Small herds of wild horses
  
- Daily "herding" and monitoring
  - Vaqueros
  - Aircraft
  
- Develop water storage
  - Dirt tanks and reservoirs
  - Expand storage at windmills
  
- Natural weed control
  - Sheep
  - Goats
  
- Reduce or eliminate interior fences
  
- Train wild horses
  - Two years sanctuary use by vaqueros
  - Return trained horses to U. S.
    - Cost savings for the sanctuary
    - Return on investment for BLM

## HERD HANDLING INSIGHTS

Skilled livestock managers understand that animals must be approached individually as well as collectively. On an individual basis, we recognize that each animal species, and individuals within a species, have their own "flight zone". The space, if invaded abruptly, causes the animal to bolt. Once this distance is recognized and respected, both domestic and wild livestock can be trained properly. The challenge of herding is amplified as the size of the herd increases.

Proper land and forage management is positively effected by "training" livestock, to move away from pressure. However, animals also need to learn to stand their ground when handlers ride through pastures to check periodically for illness, grass conditions, or maintenance of water sources. Those who argue that this behavior cannot be achieved with wild horses have not had the advantage of working with the numerous accomplished teachers that we have sought out. We know from our own experiences, that this goal is attainable by implementing and reinforcing proper handling methods.

In performing under this BLM contract, our partners, employees and visitors will be trained in "mustang etiquette" when riding or driving through herds. For example, we all have seen film footage of lions walking among a herd of unconcerned zebras. The two are natural enemies, but the prey does not become alarmed if the predator presents himself in a passive manner. The same concept will enable mustangs to become manageable without diminishing or compromising their wild nature. A "trained" wild horse is very aware of his surroundings, taking his cues from a rider instead of thinking of escaping and possibly injuring himself in the process. The horse learns to forego histrionics and conserve his energy for more important challenges.

The Sonora cooperative extension service recommends a stocking ratio of 20 to 25 acres per horse or cow/calf pair. Our formula is 40 acres per horse which will create a "grassbank" to draw from in times of reduced rainfall or fire damage to pastureland. Since the horses within the sanctuary will be geldings or open mares within a rotational grazing system, they should require less land to stay in good condition. The ratio of 40 acres/horse may be twice as much land as needed in a normal year. This sanctuary will consist of various "ranches" which would allow for the herd sizes to stay within manageable numbers. The interior fences would be eliminated and only



perimeter fences kept in place. The "pastures" would be defined by the natural landscape and the location of water. Without fences, we have less maintenance and the ability to "drift" horses into an approximate area without negotiating any gates. Vaqueros would ride daily in the areas not being grazed and drift any horses in the wrong areas toward the proper area. Without fences, we have less maintenance and the ability to "drift" horses into an approximate area without negotiating any gates. This simplifies management and allows for the use of horsemen, on a daily basis, whose only contact with these wild horses will be with the ones who haven't learned to stay in the proper area. The horses who have learned to stay in the area allowed for that grazing period will either not see any vaqueros or will only see them at such a distance they will not feel threatened enough to move away. The "training" and management of these horses will only be done by horseman, therefore vehicles and even people walking should not cause them alarm since they will become conditioned to yield only to the vaqueros.

The use of small numbers of goats and sheep would allow natural control of weeds and shrubs without the future need for chemicals. These animals would always be under the control of herders working within our management plan. They would not be allowed to free-roam on the property. Research indicates there is a 10% goat and horse "overlap" in feed usage and 15% between sheep and horses. This creates a situation in which the use of these three animals to properly manage rangeland is a very viable option. There will not be any cattle on any land used for the sanctuary program.



Sacaton flat at Ejido San Pedro

Rancho Casa Blanca

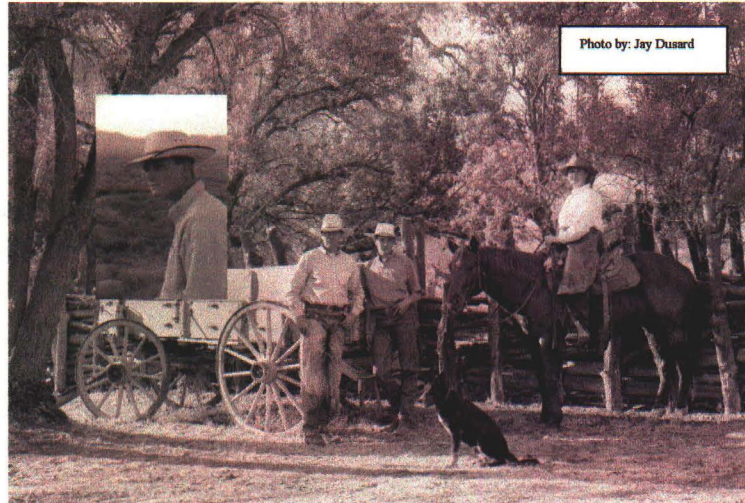


## COMMENTS BY MERLE AND SHARON EDSALL

The goals we have hoped to achieve during our lifetimes have all centered on the livestock business. Our two adult sons, Roy and Clayton, share these goals and lifestyle. The deep satisfaction of working with animals under range conditions is hard to describe to someone unfamiliar with this environment as a livelihood instead of a hobby.

Even more difficult to describe is the passion which drives one to continually perfect livestock handling talents. Properly executed skills exude beauty and harmony, endowing livestock handling with an artistic quality. Our family possesses this passion and continually seeks more knowledge and experience. We have spent many years perfecting low or no-stress methods of handling livestock.

Failure as well as success develops expertise. You learn under which conditions certain handling methods succeed or fail. Most important, you learn the optimum number of animals (the "critical mass") that impacts the outcome of herding and grazing tasks. We have gathered and sorted horses in herds up to 500 and cattle in herds exceeding 3000 head. Participating, mostly as consultants and observers, in ventures which include buffalo, sheep, and goats has provided insights into "alternative industries".



We used the profits from 15 years in the cattle ranching business to pay for advancing our skills in the areas of stockdog raising and training, horse training, and grazing management. Learning all we could about, what some call "new", information concerning these subjects became a major priority in our lives. This was accomplished by travel, research, travel, hands on experience, travel and more travel. With a considerable amount of experience as employees and managers of large ranches, Sharon and I had a solid foundation from which to expand once we became "self-unemployed". We endured many financial hardships and, as stated before, failure as well as success develops expertise. We now possess an honorary degree in ranching.

We sold our cattle when we could no longer be profitable. Our skills in the horse and stockdog industries had been honed and we simply turned two "secondary" incomes into the primary source of revenue. "Starting colts" for a living develops survival skills. Dealing with the owners of horses as clients, friends and participants in horsemanship clinics, creates many more experiences. Providing people with horses and instruction for jumping, roping, cutting, reining, dressage, polo, etc. has introduced us to clients from many states and many walks of life. Moving our business to Arizona for half the year allowed for this business to grow considerably.

Many people will say that wild horses cannot be managed, that rangeland cannot be rejuvenated with horses grazing, that goats and sheep cannot replace chemicals for weed control. It is much easier to say it cannot be done, than to prove otherwise. Most stockmen, ranchers, horsemen, etc, will continue to use the same methods that grandpa or the neighbors still adhere to. Our lives have hinged on a different theory. "If the neighbors are wondering about your methods, you may be making progress", has been a statement and a lifestyle for our family. This project has all the neighbors talking and they are speaking in two languages. For the Edsall family, the "easy part" will be the daily operation of this sanctuary. For many others, the "easy part" is saying it can't be done.

OFICIO No. 13/01- 0357

Hermosillo, Sonora, 21 de Agosto del 2002.  
"2002: AÑO DE LUCHA CONTRA EL CANCER EN LA MUJER".

**WILD HORSE ADVISORY BOARD**

**A QUIEN CORRESPONDA:**

La Secretaría de Fomento Ganadero del Gobierno del Estado de Sonora, tiene conocimiento de los esfuerzos de un grupo de hombres de negocios, que han estado trabajando para traer entre 2000-5000 caballos salvajes provenientes de Estados Unidos a la región de Cananea.

Los beneficios que producirá este proyecto son de gran interés, toda vez que se contribuirá a la recuperación de tierras de agostadero a través de un plan integral de pastoreo en el que se incluirán además de los equinos, otras especies como los ovinos y caprinos, se contribuirá asimismo a la capitalización de los dueños de la tierra, a la generación de empleo, divisas por turismo y al mejoramiento de la infraestructura.

Estamos en la mejor disposición para trabajar en coordinación con el **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** de los Estados Unidos, para garantizar el monitoreo y control de estos caballos mientras estén en terreno sonorense.

Sin otro particular por el momento, aprovecho la ocasión para reiterarle la seguridad de mi distinguida consideración.

Atentamente,  
**EL SECRETARIO DE FOMENTO GANADERO**



**ING. LEOCADIO LUIS AGUAYO AGUILAR**



Secretaría de Fomento  
Ganadero del Estado  
de Sonora

C.C.P. LIC. ARMANDO LOPEZ NOGALES, Gobernador Constitucional del Estado de Sonora.  
C.C.P. LIC. ALFONSO ELÍAS SERRANO, Presidente de la Unión Ganadera Regional de Sonora.  
C.C.P. ARCHIVO.  
C.C.P. MINUTARIO.  
LLAA\*RBL\*Edith.



OFFICE OF RANCH MANAGEMENT

OFICIO NO. 13/01 0357

Hermosillo, Sonora, August 21, 2002

"2000: YEAR OF FIGHT AGAINST CANCER IN WOMEN"

WILD HORSE ADVISORY BOARD

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Office of Ranch Management of the Sonora State Government acknowledges the efforts of a group of businessmen who have been working to bring between 2000 to 5000 wild horses from the United States into the area of Cananea.

The benefits that this project will bring is of great interest because it will contribute to improvement of pasture land through an integral grazing plan, in which other species such as sheep and goats will be included.

It will also contribute to the capitalization of the land owners, will generate employment as well as income from tourism and infrastructure improvement for the land.

We are in our best disposition to work along with the U. S. Bureau of Land Management to guarantee the monitoring and control of these horses while they stay on Sonoran land.

Sincerely,

RANCH MANAGEMENT SECRETARY

ING. LEOCADIO LUIS AGUAYO AGUILAR

ccp Lic. Armando Lopez Nogales, Sonora State Governor

ccp Lic. Alfonso Elias Serrano, President of the Sonora Regional Cattlemen Union

ccp File





H. AYUNTAMIENTO  
CANANEA, SONORA.

DEPENDENCIA

SECCION

NUMERO DE OFICIO:

EXPEDIENTE:

**ASUNTO:**

Cananea, Sonora. March 13, 2002

To Whom It May Concern,

As representative of the City of Cananea, it is an honor and a privilege to be considered as a possible site for the Mustangs for Sonora Project. The potential economic and social impact a project such as this could bring to our community is invaluable for a town in great need of economic development. We will do anything in our ability to make a project like this a reality for our community.

I ask for your assistance, along with any other government organizations on both countries, to make this project a reality in the City of Cananea. Thank you for all your help.

AL CONTESTAR ESTE OFICIO CITENSE  
LOS DATOS CONTENIDOS EN EL CUADRO  
DE ANGULO SUPERIOR DERECHO

  
Mario C. Cuen A.  
Mayor



# UNIÓN DE EJIDOS "JACINTO LÓPEZ"

AVENIDA JUÁREZ No. 131  
CANANEA, SONORA, MÉXICO.

March 13, 2002

TO: WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADV. B.

The Union of Ejidos Jacinto López in Cananea, Sonora hereby communicates Mr. Merle Edsall that we have reviewed his letter of which we are sending copies to te different people in charge of the Ejidos regarding the ocular inspection of Mr. Edsall and his comments.

We will soon have a meeting with the Ejido authorities so we can get their point of view.

The opinion of the Union of Ejidos is that his project will have a good impact on the area and it is a good economic alternative for a lot of people who do not have enough means to develop projects on their properties on their own.

We appreciate Mr. Edsall for his comments about Cananea as being one of the best places to carry out this project.

MUSTANGS FOR SONORA.

We will be in contact with Mr. Edsall.

Sincerely yours,

  
Juan Vega Rivera  
President.

Unión de Ejidos "Jacinto Lopez"  
AV JUÁREZ No. 131  
CANANEA, SONORA.

## FORAGE LIST

### Sources:

- 1) *Desert Grasses*, published by the Arizona Native Plant Society
- 2) *Arizona Range Grasses: Their Description, Forage Value, and Grazing Management*, published by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service
- 3) Pasture plants gathered, identified, and documented by range forage specialists in the agriculture development division of Banco de México.

Annual Plants	Botanical Name	Season	Nutritional Value
1) Sixweeks Threeawn	<i>aristida adscensionis</i>	summer	very good
2) Feather Fingergrass	<i>chloris virgata</i>	spring/summer	good
3) Dallis Grass	<i>paspalum dilatatum</i>	spring/summer	good
4) Needle Grama	<i>bouteloua aristidoides</i>	summer	poor
5) Sixweeks Grama	<i>bouteloua barbata</i>	spring/summer	poor
6) Plains Lovegrass	<i>eragrostis intermedia</i>	spring/summer/fall	very good
7) Burclover	<i>Medicago spp.</i>	spring/summer	excellent
8) Amaranth	<i>amaranthus palmeri</i>	spring/summer	excellent
9) Devil's Claw	<i>proboscidea althaeifolia</i>	summer/fall (pods)	good
10) Sunflower	<i>helianthus annus</i>	late summer/fall	fair
11) Dandelion	<i>taraxacum officinale</i>	spring	very good
12) Mustard Weed	<i>brassica spp.</i>	spring	fair
13) Wild Spinach	<i>chenopodiaceae</i>	spring/summer	excellent
14) Wild Lettuce	<i>lactuca serriola</i>	spring	very good
15) Purslane	<i>portulaca oleracea</i>	late winter/spring	very good

Shrubs & Trees	Botanical Name	Season	Nutritional Value
1) Juniper	<i>juniperus monosperma</i>	spring	good
2) Cedar	<i>cedrus spp.</i>	spring	good
3) Black Walnut	<i>juglans nigra</i>	all	good
4) Willow	<i>salix bonplandiada</i>	all	good
5) Mesquite	<i>prosopis julifera</i>	spring/summer/fall	excellent
6) Arizona Cottonwood	<i>populus fremontii</i>	summer/fall/winter	good
7) Arizona Sycamore	<i>platamus racemosa w.</i>	summer/fall/winter	good
8) White Mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	summer/fall/winter	good
9) Fairy Duster	<i>calliandra eriophylla</i>	spring/summer/fall	excellent
10) Oak (6 species)	<i>quercus spp.</i>	all	very good
11) Manzanita	<i>arctostaphylos pungens</i>	spring (flowers) fall (berries)	fair to good
12) Bear Grass	<i>nolina texana</i>	all, esp. winter	very good
13) Wild Hollyhock	<i>alcea spp.</i>	summer/fall	good
14) Yucca	<i>agave palmeri</i>	spring/summer (flowers)	good
15) Prickly Pear Cactus	<i>opuntia ficus indica</i>	summer/fall (fruits)	good
16) Four-Wing Saltbush	<i>atriplex canescens</i>	spring/summer/fall	very good
17) Winter Fat	<i>eurotia ceratoides</i>	winter	very good

Perennial Plants	Botanical Name	Season	Nutritional Value
1) Alkali Sacaton	<i>sporobolus airoides</i>	spring/summer	fair to good
2) Sacaton	<i>sporobolus wrightii</i>	spring	good
3) Sand Dropseed	<i>sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	summer/fall	fair to good
4) Mountain Muhly	<i>muhlenbergia montana</i>	spring/summer	good
5) Bush Muhly	<i>muhlenbergia porteri</i>	all, esp. winter	excellent
6) Bullgrass	<i>muhlenbergia emersleyi</i>	spring/summer/fall	poor to fair
7) Fluff Grass	<i>erioneuron pulchellus</i>	all	good
8) Indian Rice Grass	<i>oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	spring/fall	very good
9) Twofeather Trichloris	<i>trichloris crinita</i>	spring/summer/fall	good
10) Spike Pappusgrass	<i>enneapogon desvauxii</i>	spring/summer/fall	good
11) Green Sprangletop	<i>leptochloa dubia</i>	spring/summer/fall	fair
12) Crested Wheatgrass	<i>agropyron desertorum</i>	spring/summer/fall	excellent
13) Santa Rita Threawn	<i>aristida californica</i>	spring/summer/fall	good
14) Red Threawn	<i>aristida purpurea</i>	all, esp. spring/summer	fair
15) Spidergrass	<i>aristida ternipes</i>	spring	fair
16) Pine Dropseed	<i>blepharoneuron trich.</i>	summer	very good
17) Cane Beardgrass	<i>bothriochloa barbinodis</i>	all, esp. summer/fall	fair
18) Desert Saltgrass	<i>distichlis spicata</i>	spring/fall	fair to good
19) Slender Wheatgrass	<i>elymustrachycaulus</i>	spring/summer/fall	very good
20) Woolly Bunchgrass	<i>elyonurus barbiculmis</i>	spring/summer	fair
21) Tanglehead	<i>heteropogon contortus</i>	all, esp. spring	poor to fair
22) Curly Mesquite	<i>hilaria belangeri</i>	all	excellent
23) Wolf tail	<i>lycurus setosus</i>	spring/summer/fall	good
24) Hall's Panic Grass	<i>penicum hallii</i>	all	excellent
25) Tobosa	<i>pleuraphis mutica</i>	summer	very good
26) Texas Bluestem	<i>schizachyrium cirratum</i>	all, esp. summer	fair
27) Little Bluestem	<i>schizachyrium scop.</i>	all, esp. summer	poor to fair
28) Slim Tridens	<i>tridens muticus</i>	spring/summer/fall	fair to good
29) Buffalo Grass	<i>buchloe dactyloides</i>	spring/summer/fall	good
30) Johnson Grass	<i>sorghum halepense</i>	spring/summer/fall	excellent
31) Arizona Cottontop	<i>digitaria californica</i>	summer/fall/winter	excellent
32) Lehmann Lovegrass	<i>eragrostis lehmaniana</i>	all, esp. fall/winter	very good
33) Bermuda Grass	<i>cynodon dactylon</i>	spring/summer/fall	excellent
34) Sideoats Grama	<i>bouteloua curipend.</i>	all	excellent
35) Sprucetop Grama	<i>bouteloua chondrosi.</i>	summer/fall/winter	excellent
36) Blue Grama	<i>bouteloua gracilis</i>	summer/fall/winter	excellent
37) Black Grama	<i>bouteloua eriopoda</i>	all	excellent
38) Rothrock Grama	<i>bouteloua rothrockii</i>	summer	good
39) Hairy Grama	<i>bouteloua hirsuta</i>	all	excellent
40) Slender Grama	<i>bouteloua repens</i>	all	excellent

The preponderance of forage consists of grama grasses and a few associated species such as Sacaton.

The high elevation and rainfall has precluded invasion by cactus species.

## WEATHER PROFILE

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
<b>Av. High Temp. (F)</b>	62.3	66.7	71.9	79.2	86.4	95.3	93.9	93.9	91.4	88.6	80.8	70.1	62.7
<b>Av. Low Temp. (F)</b>	28.9	31.6	36.0	41.4	49.2	57.8	64.2	62.6	62.6	58.8	45.3	34.3	28.7
<b>Rainfall (Av. In.)</b>	1.91	1.45	1.02	0.23	0.50	0.60	5.60	3.46	1.76	1.96	1.05	1.05	21.18
<b>Av. Wind (mph)</b>	7.9	8.1	8.6	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.4	7.9	8.3	8.2	8.1	7.8	8.3

*Source: Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc.dri.edu*

### NOTES:

- 1.- Statistics given are 50-year averages, taken from nearest U. S. Weather Station at Douglas, Arizona, 35 miles from the proposed sanctuary area and 1000 ft. lower elevation.
- 2.- Heaviest rainfall is during the summer monsoons, typically July, August, and September, with supplemental rains in winter.
- 3.- The long range weather forecast is for another "El Niño", which is slated to bring excessive winter rainfall to northern Sonora and southern Arizona. These rains are expected in November.

### OFFICIAL STATISTICS FROM THE CITY OF CANANEA

September 2001 to August 2002

RAINFALL:	28.85 inches
HIGH TEMP:	89 - 90 degrees F
LOW TEMP:	30 - 32 degrees F

### IMPORTING HORSES TO MEXICO FROM THE U.S.

*Requirements:*

Animals must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian authorized by the U.S.D.A. and endorsed by a Veterinary Services veterinarian. The certificate shall contain the name and address of the consignor and the consignee, and individual identification of the animals to be imported.

Horses must have been vaccinated at least 15 days but within 12 months prior to shipment against equine eastern and western encephalitis.

Horses must not have been vaccinated with either a live, attenuated, or inactivated vaccine within 14 days prior to exportation.

Horses must have been administered a Coggins test within 45 days prior to date of export (show name of laboratory and date of test).

Horses were examined and found to be clinically healthy and free of any evidence of infectious diseases and ectoparasites.

Prior to crossing the border, animals are unloaded and inspected by a Mexican veterinarian at a U.S. border corral facility at one of the following:

*Texas:* Brownsville, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, El Paso, Laredo, Presidio

*New Mexico:* Columbus

*California:* Calexico

*Arizona:* San Luis, Nogales, Douglas

The U.S. Origin Health Certificate must be typewritten. Mexican Port Veterinarians will reject handwritten certificates.

Transportation must be in clean and disinfected vehicles, and must not come into contact with other animals during transport.

Although NOT a health requirement, the Mexican government recommends that the animals be vaccinated against equine rhinopneumonitis at least 14 days prior to exportation.

*Source: USDA Port Veterinarian, Douglas, Ariz.; and Mexican Port Veterinarian, Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico.*

### IMPORTING HORSES TO THE U.S. FROM MEXICO

*Requirements:*

Importer must present an Application for Inspection (VS 17-32) and U.S. Customs declaration to the Port office.

A health certificate must be issued by a Mexican accredited veterinarian, with horses individually identified on the health certificate (either a written description or drawing).

Horses must be tested by a U.S. Port Veterinarian at the port corral facilities on the Mexican side of the border and tested for Dourine, Glanders, Equine Piroplasmiasis, and Equine Infectious Anemia.

Prior to entry into the U.S. horses are sprayed for ticks with Co-ral.

The horses then can be walked to the adjoining port corral facilities on the U.S. side of the border for loading and transportation.

*Source: Arnold Moorehouse, USDA Veterinary Services, Port of Douglas, Arizona*

## **SONORA WILD HORSE SANCTUARY ADVISORY BOARD**

*This Board will consist of representatives from these groups who will meet to address the challenges encountered.*

- CONSERVATION GROUPS
- WILD HORSE ADVOCACY GROUPS
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL
- IMADES, SEMARNAP, CASA
- UNION OF EJIDOS AND PRIVATE RANCHERS
- SONORA REGIONAL CATTLEMEN UNION
- STATE OF SONORA VETERINARY BOARD

## Present Costs Associated with 10,000 Wild Horses

*These figures have been obtained from BLM sources*

<b>Gather costs</b>	<b>\$340/head</b>	<b>\$3,400,000</b>
Includes:	Capture Feed at trap sites Transportation to prep center BLM labor/monitoring	
Does not include:	DNA testing Castrations Contraception research Transport to holding or adoption facility BLM labor after delivery from gather site	N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A
 <b>Vaccinations</b>	 <b>\$75/head</b>	 <b>\$750,000</b>
Includes:	West Nile Virus Rabies Eastern & Western Sleeping Sickness Influenza Coggins	
 <b>Holding facilities / feedlots</b>	 <b>365 days @ \$4/day</b>	 <b>\$14,600,000</b>
Includes:	Room and board	
Does not include:	Veterinary care BLM labor/monitoring	N/A N/A
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,750,000</b>

The cost is approximately: **\$1,875/ wild horse** for the gather, transportation and care for one year in the "pipeline".

Significant efforts in the U.S. have been unable to produce a sanctuary of this size due to the high cost of rangeland which may also be threatened by land development during the lifetime of this project. Average life expectancy of wild horses entering a sanctuary is 25+ years.

An average U.S. long term sanctuary costs \$1.25/day  
**\$4.56 million annually for 10,000 wild horses**

*The Sonora Wild Horse Sanctuary makes good fiscal sense*