

NDA Invades Private Property
1/18/07

TV SPOT ON NDA TRYING TO ROUND UP WILD HORSES ON PERSON'S LAND

IN PALOMINO VALLEY

Hi, Everyone:

I talked to the owner of the property in Palomino Valley today and thought you'd like to see what the owner expressed to me today, especially if you didn't get a chance to see the TV spot on Channel 4. The woman's name is Jamie Venice; she and her husband own 57 acres on the right side of Palomino Valley Road, past the BLM Wild Horse Center.

Now I want to say straight up that Jamie knows it is against the law to feed these horses, but they have been feeding approx. 44 for the winter months for five years. They live a good mile off the highway.

On Thursday, January 18, 2006, there appeared on her doorstep Ron Ferguson, Nevada Dept. of Agriculture and a woman brand inspector. With them, in a separate truck, was Sgt. Barrett, Washoe County Sheriff's Office. They asked to come in to talk with her, and she agreed. Ron Ferguson said that they wanted to remove the wild horses from their property as there was a complaint that they have become a nuisance. After discussing this with them for a few minutes and hearing what they intended to do, she asked them to leave when it started getting heated. After they left, Ron and Sgt. Barrett talked together beside their trucks, but the woman brand inspector started walking out on the land toward the band of horses that were there at the time and tried to shoo them off Jamie's property.

After they left, Jamie drove down to the road and saw several trucks and livestock trailers there with saddled horses in them. She said they were Paiute Indians with the trucks. (There was an Indian who came up to her door four years ago – she believes his name was Wayne O'Neill - accusing her of feeding 'my horses,' but he had not returned. There are no brands on any of these horses.) Jamie did not talk with them but assumed they were there to round up the horses. She said there is a green-paneled pen down the road.

Several hours after they left the property, and not knowing what to do, Jamie called TV Channel 4. Within one hour of the call, the reporter with camera arrived at her place to interview her. When Jamie called the station after the TV spot, the person she talked with said they had received many calls on this; he called the Paiute Nation, left a message, but there was no call returned. That person also called NDA and they said 'it was pure speculation these horses would be going to slaughter.'

Again, Jamie and her husband know it is against the law to feed the horses, and they will deal with that, but does that give NDA the right to trespass on their property? Their ranch is quite isolated, the nearest neighbor being miles away. They are worried NDA will come on her land to try to get these horses. I suggested they quickly put up 'No Trespassing – Private Property' signs as soon as they could.

She asked if any one knows an attorney with knowledge on this type of thing; they are willing to pay for one. I told her I would be putting out her story, and she asked anyone who needs more information to not hesitate to call her at 775-475-0795. She is especially asking all who are concerned about NDA coming on private property without permission, to call NDA MONDAY MORNING and express their concerns. **Call: Ron Fergurson at 775-841-0328 or 775-848-2187(c).**

Jamie would like any help she can get. She realizes the wild horse population is growing and needs management and is going to contact UC Davis to see if they would work with her on a birth-control program on her property.

Bonnie