

NAME/ADDRESS REMOVED

December 27, 2006

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Honoring Your Sacred Trust and Duty

Secretary Kempthorne:

I am writing to you regarding the improper management and lack of coordination between National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management that is resulting in the permanent elimination of the Clark Mountain Burros in California.

The National Park Service is charged with protecting and managing some of our Nations greatest resources. While I am aware that they do not "manage" for wild horses and burros, there is a reason that they are called National, because this encompasses our Nations resources as a whole, not disconnected from the rest of the public lands.

It is my understanding that the National Park Service agreed to allow the Clark Burros access to their water when land was transferred to within their jurisdiction. Now, they are refusing to honor this agreement and essentially, eliminating the Clark Burros ability to survive in their home.

Even more disturbing is the refusal to work with the public and community, who has volunteered to provide what is necessary to reestablish water for the burros, at no cost. Why they are refusing to partner with the public to protect and ensure the burros continued existence is truly a mystery to me.

In fact, I am truly dumbfounded as to why this situation has deteriorated to the point that I must write to you about it. You, who over see both agencies involved, have been charged by Congress to protect wild horses and burros on public lands for the American people. You have both the authority and the mandate to sit your Directors down and say, "Make it work". So that begs the question, will you?

The Clark Mountain Burros are recognized as a one of a kind breed of burro that contain completely unique qualities. To allow them to be permanently eliminated from the American landscape is unconscionable and quite frankly, a failure to honor that which you have been entrusted to do, preserve our Nations resources for future generations.

We save snails, frogs, tortoise, rare plants, birds, and have even brought the bighorn sheep back from the brink of extinction, yet for some reason, these burros are not being protected too. The matter is relatively simple and with a stroke of your pen, you can remedy this entire fiasco.

Their continued existence is not posing a threat nor causing harm, so why are they being removed? This is not proper land use planning or resource management. Don't let a bureaucratic failure be responsible for their permanent disappearance from our landscape. They are part of our history, our culture, our heritage, as well as a promise made to the American people that is not being honored.

I strongly urge you, no, beg you, to intercede and demand that your Directors find a way to preserve them; either through honoring the original agreement to allow the burros access to the water that was rightfully theirs or allowing

the public to volunteer to bring their water back to them. Solutions are already in place, it is merely a matter of cutting through the "red tape" to resolve this.

Please do what you were appointed to do; protect our Nations resources and protect the wild horses and burros. Anything less is both tragic and unforgivable.

I would like to thank you in advance for recognizing this oversight and resolving the situation. I know you would not be appointed to this position if you were not capable and desiring to preserve, protect and care for Americas lands, treasures and resources.

Sincerely,

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