

**COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF WILD HORSES**

MINUTES OF THE

OPEN MEETING

APRIL 6, 2001

Members Present:

Frank Cassas, Chairman
Cindy Cherrigan
Mike Kirk
Julie Von Tobel Gleason
Cathy Barcomb, Administrator
Ronda Moore, D.A.G.

Others Present:

Terry Woosley, BLM
Maxine Shane, BLM
Gary McFadden, BLM
Billie Young, National Wild Horse Assn.
Lori Howard, National Wild Horse Assn.

9:30 AM Field Tour/Red Rock Area

The Commission conducted a field tour of the Red Rock area prior to the Commission meeting. We observed problems to the Herd Area and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area due to urban sprawl, increased recreational demands, boundaries, and management challenges of the wild horse and burro herds.

Also had a presentation from Alan of the "Outdoor Las Vegas Foundation" on the goals and objectives of their Foundation in improving outdoor recreational opportunities in the area.

1:15PM Commission Meeting

Chairman Cassas opened the meeting with Commissioners Cherrigan, Gleason, and Kirk present. Cathy Barcomb, Administrator, and Ronda Moore, D.A.G. were also present.

1) Discussion: Update on the National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation Proposal Sent to the 2001 Session of the Nevada Legislature. Presentation by Frank Cassas

Chairman Cassas reported on the progress in developing the National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation. He reported that Assembly Bill 662 (AB662) was being discussed in the Nevada Legislative Session that would allow the Commission to expend funds from the Heil Trust for the establishment of the Foundation. He reported that the BLM had committed funding for the establishment of the Foundation and that the Commission was seeking Legislative support to match those funds. Mr. Cassas reported that a “brainstorming” session was scheduled for May 4th, where Josh Turner, from Turner and Associates and also a representative of the team that had done the National Marketing Study for BLM, were donating their time to help the Advisory Team develop a strategy in starting the Foundation. He reported the Team was comprised of himself, Cathy Barcomb, Mike Turnipseed, representing the State and Bob Abbey, Terry Woosley, Maxine Shane, Tom Pogacnik, and Janet Nordin representing BLM. He stated that he would keep the Commissioners informed of the progress at future Commission meetings.

2) Discussion: Update on the Nevada Prison Holding/Training Center, “Nevada Wild Horses and Inmates in Life Development” (Nevada Wild), proposal to the 2001 Session of the Nevada Legislature, Presentations by Cathy Barcomb, Administrator, and Jackie Crawford, Director, Dept of Prisons

Discussion postponed for a future Commission meeting.

3) *Discussion and Decision: Discussion and Consideration of the Oliver Ranch Environmental Center. Presentation by Julie Von Tobel Gleason on the Viability of an Educational Center at the Ranch. Decision on Extent of Commission Participation in the Ongoing Planning Processes.

4)

Julie Von Tobel Gleason, Commissioner, reported on the activities of the “Outdoor Las Vegas Organization” in that there had been tremendous community “buy in” and support of the concept. She reported that the main focus of the group was “to promote responsible recreation and quality of life around Las Vegas.

Billie Young from the National Wild Horse Assn. added that they had been working with the group on wild horse issues and were all looking for new ideas. She added that the “old” thought had been “IF the wild horse program were included. Now it IS part of the program.

Frank Cassas stated that he felt Alan was doing a tremendous job and that he was working as a mediator between all the government and private organizations.

5) Discussion: Showing of the Public Service Announcement done with Governor Guinn for the BLM Adoption Program/Commercials for TV

Maxine Shane, BLM, reported that Governor Guinn has been very supportive of the adoption

program. She reported that the BLM was especially pleased with his offer to be taped for public service announcements that will be shown nationwide since this is the first time a Governor has stepped out in support of the program. She showed the video of the 3 commercials that the Governor had taped for TV.

Maxine Shane also reported that because of the discussion at the previous Commission meeting in Elko, support had been garnered for a power point kiosk to be outside the Red Rock Visitors Center. She added that there were over one million visitors through the center each year and that the kiosk would be a tremendous educational opportunity.

6) *Discussion and Decision: Proposed Red Rock General Management (GMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The GMP & EIS has been published by the BLM and the Commission will be discussing the content for possible response.

Billie Young reviewed the tour taken that morning, reiterating the importance of relocating the parking area's adjacent to the underpasses that the wild horses need to facilitate their daily movement to water and forage. She added that she felt it was very important to recognize and remember that this was Herd Management Area first.

Gary McFadden, BLM, discussed the boundary problems with the original Herd Area (HA) boundary versus areas of use today. He reported that there were meetings scheduled to discuss the boundary problems versus urban sprawl and that a facilitator would be present to help the group reach possible solutions. They need to focus on maintaining habitat and providing a buffer from urban sprawl. He also talked about the horseback riding stables concerns; hay vs weed free hay, trail rides not staying on the trails (8,500 - 9,000 rides per year), special events, diseases such as EIA, strangles, etc.....He felt that HMA and conservation should be first in priority and recreation second.

Cathy Barcomb had submitted for discussion, a draft response to the draft RRCNCA plan. The Commissioners discussed some minor changes to the language, Commissioner Kirk motioned to accept and mail the letter with the revisions discussed, seconded by Commissioner Cherrigan, unanimously approved.

7) Discussion and Decision: BLM's Proposed Policy to Allow Adoption of Wild Horses at Trap Sites in Nevada

Cathy Barcomb expressed her concerns that BLM was proposing to adopt out wild horses directly from the trap sites. She stated that she was not completely opposed to the idea, however, had concerns for the horses safety and viability of homes. Specifically she stated that she was worried about horses leaving the trapsite and going into private homes without vaccinations to protect them from domestic diseases, also the fact that when horses are vaccinated that stress can cause an adverse reaction and that at least under BLM control at the adoption center there was a vet and appropriate facilities to care for a sick animal, also if BLM could insure that each and every home were pre-inspected prior to the public taking a horses home, etc.

Terry Woosley, BLM, stated that for a number of years BLM did do trapsite adoptions with no criteria and they were eliminated in 1995. He added that now there were standard procedures in place that are normally included in BLM other adoptions considering the safety and well being of the horses. He noted that if a trapsite adoption were proposed that it would be noted in all land use planning documents prior to the gather, coggin's test's would be done, and a stipulation that people not intermix animals prior to notification of Coggins Test when bringing them home. Terry also noted that a trapsite adoption would be much more work for the BLM District and he didn't feel that

many area's would want the extra burden of that type of adoption.

7) Discussion: Commissioner Cherrigan will report on her work to establish the Reno Wild Horse Association and related projects.

Commissioner Cherrigan reported that she and a few other people in Reno had decided to start a non-profit organization in Reno to help promote adoption of wild horses through public outreach programs. They had filed their paperwork to form the organization to be called the "Reno Wild Horse Association" and had adopted a wild horse from BLM which they named "Reno". Their plan was to take the horse to the inmate training program in Carson City and from there be able to put the horse in parades publicizing wild horses, take Reno to schools for children to get exposure to wild horses and learn of the adoption program and public lands, and any other programs that would come up where they could help to raise funds to help wild horses.

She reported that they were newly formed and she would keep the Commission informed of their future projects.

8) Discussion: Eastern Nevada Restoration Project, presentation by Gene Kolkman, Ely District Manager and Gracian Uhalde, Commissioner

Discussion postponed, Mr. Kolkman was not able to make the meeting.

9) *Discussion and Decision: Minutes of the Commission Meetings for September 30, 2000, December 4, 2000, and February 2, 2001.

After discussion Commissioner Kirk motioned to accept the minutes of the meetings of Sept. 30, and December 4, with amendments, seconded by Commissioner Gleason, unanimously approved.

10) *Discussion and Decision re: Killing of Wild Horses in Southern Nevada and the possibility of the Commission Posting Reward Funds for Information Leading to the Arrest and Conviction of the Person(s) Responsible

After discussion of the crime and availability of funds, Commissioner Gleason motioned to post a reward of \$1,000.00 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the recent killing of wild horses in Southern Nevada. Seconded by Commissioner Cherrigan, unanimously approved.

11) Public Comment Period

Cathy Barcomb reported that the Commission, per an idea presented by Frank Cassas, was starting a campaign asking for donations of saddles, blankets, bridles, halters, just tack in general to be donated through non-profit organizations and then given to the Nevada State Prison System. She reported that there were 16 inmates working with only 2 saddles and bridles and that the program was desperately in need of tack.

Billie Young from the National Wild Horse Association offered to help try to get donations through their organization in Las Vegas.

Commissioner Gleason reported that she would be working with the National Wild Horse Association and taking her mustang foals to the Nevada Earth Day Celebration as well as Petapalooza in Las Vegas. They hoped to show the public about wild horses and educate them on public lands issues and adoption availability.

12) *Set Next Meeting Date

After discussion, the Commissioners requested Cathy Barcomb to set a next meeting date around the end of July in Ely.

13) *Adjournment

Commissioner Kirk motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Cherrigan, unanimously approved.