

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources  
Director Allen Biaggi  
901 South Stewart St. Ste. #5001  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

November 23, 2007

Dear Director Biaggi:

As a Nevada resident, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the functional administrative abilities of the Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses to fairly and honestly represent Nevada residents or allow public involvement in their activities.

It has come to my attention that the Commission has released a private agenda for their upcoming meeting scheduled for November 26, 2007 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) at the Washoe County Commission Chambers in Reno, Nevada.

Though the privately released agenda states that notices of the Commission's agenda would be posted at various locations to inform the public of its intent, one of which was cited as the Commission's website itself, as of today, the Commission's agenda has still not been posted for public review.

What makes this especially egregious is this agenda was sent privately to "select individuals" to encourage their involvement well over a week ago while the general public has been shut out. This agenda and the Commission's activities are required to be posted in a publicly accessible location for all Nevada residents to review, not just the "chosen few" who received the agenda privately.

After researching much of the Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses history and involvement in wild horse preservation over the years, I have found this is often a pattern exhibited by the Commission's long-time administrator, Cathy Barcomb and by members of the Commission itself – failing to give sufficient notice or any notice at all of the Commission's activities and agendas to the general public or encouraging general public participation in their proposals, recommendations or activities.

Nevada Revised Statutes, NRS 504.470 (b), (i), are explicitly clear in the Commission's duties, which require them to act as a liaison with the general public as well as requiring them to both educate and inform the general public of Commission's activities regarding the preservation and management of wild horses and burros in Nevada.

Furthermore, the information released in this private agenda outlines a wide array of significant proposals such as Litigation Options regarding BLM's management of wild horses (though no further information is provided) and includes the possibility of taking *immediate* action on recommendations or support of major changes in policies on both state and national levels.

I am outraged by yet another attempt of the Commission to covertly implement major policy changes and directions through circumvention of Nevada's general public.

It would appear that Administrator Barcomb and the Commission members too often represent only their own personal opinions or a "select group" of supporters for their ideas while failing to include or represent Nevadans as a whole.

The disturbing trend of cronyism coupled with the Commissions self declared knowledge and authority on wild horse and burro management issues has rendered effective management strategies aimed toward the *preservation* of wild horses and burros in Nevada to be in a state of shambles.

As a resident of Southern Nevada, I have been stunned at Administrator Barcomb and the Commission's continued demonstrations of both ignorance and sincere lack of involvement in the preservation of Southern Nevada's herds with little accountability or oversight.

Serving as a poignant example of this, for at least a year and a half the Commission has highlighted the "Cold Creek HMA" on the homepage of their website – yet there is no such Herd Management Area, either in Southern Nevada, the State of Nevada or in any of the herd areas BLM administers throughout the West.

Additionally, they are so delinquent in current postings that Governor Guinn is still cited on the website as Nevada's Governor.

Now, based on the Commission's agenda, they plan to discuss and possibly take action on the management of the wild horses within the Nevada Wild Horse Range (a.k.a., Nellis) and here too, Administrator Barcomb and the Commissions complete lack of knowledge or involvement with management aimed toward the *preservation* of wild horses is absent.

In fact, quite the contrary as it was the Commission itself that insisted the BLM offer an alternative of managing *no wild horses at all* within the Nevada Wild Horse Range during the BLMs 2003 Draft Management Plans for the area, despite this being the first and oldest officially protected wild horse herd in America and Nevada BLM Wild Horse & Burro Lead Susie Stokke recently citing the area as "great habitat" for wild horse herds.

While the list is too long regarding the Commission's failures and inadequacies in wild horse and burro management within Nevada to address here, the purpose of this letter is to request that, as Director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Resources, the enforcement of NRS regulations that require the Commission to fully involve the public in both their recommendations and activities be adhered to.

The Commission, the Commissions Administrator and their handful of “approved” organizations should not be allowed to cloak their personal opinions as representing the citizens of Nevada nor should they continue to be allowed to represent us while refusing to allow public review and input of their proposals, recommendations, and actions.

Therefore, as Director, I am requesting that you prohibit the Commission from taking action on any of the agenda items until they are both properly posted for public inspection, until the Commission’s recommendations are available for public review and that opportunities are provided to the general public to include their input on the Commission’s proposals, activities and recommendations for our wild horses and burros, such as with a standard 30-day comment period once the Commission’s proposals and recommendations are formulated.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter and cannot emphasize strongly enough your need to assure Nevadans that the Commission will indeed represent all Nevadans, not just the select few.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

REMOVED

CC:

The Honorable Senator Harry Reid  
The Honorable Senator John Ensign  
The Honorable Congresswoman Shelley Berkley  
The Honorable Congressman Dean Heller  
The Honorable Congressman Jon Porter  
Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons  
Nevada Senator Steven A. Horsford  
Nevada Senator Dina Titus  
Nevada Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell  
Nevada Assemblywoman Shelia Leslie  
Nevada Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley  
Nevada Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr.  
Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, Administrator, Cathy Barcomb

### **MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

Name of Organization: Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses  
Date of Meeting: November 26, 2007  
Time: 12PM noon  
Place: Washoe County Commission Chambers

1001 E. 9<sup>th</sup>  
Reno, NV 89512

- 1) Roll call and Introductions
- 2)\* Approval of the Agenda
- 3)\* Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of the Minutes of the Commission Meeting, Oct 10, 2007.
- 4)\* Discussion and Possible Action: Report to the Commission and Discussion and Action of Litigation Options Regarding BLM's Management of Wild Horses in Nevada, Allen Biaggi, Director, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- 5)\* Discussion and Possible Action: An update on gathers and issues in the wild horse program, to include but not limited to water and management on the Nellis wild horse range, Antelope/Antelope Valley HMA gather, and BLM's budget: BLM
- 6)\* Discussion and Possible Action re: Fertility Control Programs in Nevada, past implementation on herds and the need for reports showing the results of the Fertility Control Program, BLM
- 7) \*Discussion and Possible Action re: Gelding Mustangs in Herd Management Areas to remain in the wild, a discussion on recommendations to BLM and the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board on Public Lands, to include, but not limited to, policy and procedures.
- 8) Public Comment Period
- 9)\* Set Next Meeting Date
- 10)\* Adjournment

Items designated with an asterisk (\*) on this agenda are action items that the Commission may take action on. Items may be taken out of order at the discretion of the Chairman.

This Public Meeting and Notice Agenda are posted at the following locations:

- 1) Nevada Division of Forestry, 885 Eastlake Blvd., Carson City, NV 89704
- 2) Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, 901 S. Stewart St, Carson City
- 3) Bureau of Land Management, 1340 Financial Blvd, Reno, NV 89502
- 4) Washoe County Commission Chambers, 1001 E 9<sup>th</sup> St, Reno, NV 89512
- 5) Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses website: [www.wildhorse.nv.gov](http://www.wildhorse.nv.gov)