

The Mustang Messenger

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LET 'EM RUN FOUNDATION



Photo by Ronni Hanniman

The Let 'em Run Foundation

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How You Can Help

Become a member of LERF! Your membership dollars go directly towards helping the horses. We are a completely all-volunteer organization!

Donate Generously! All donations completely tax deductible!

Volunteer Your Time!

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Purchase a "Wild Horse Crossing" CD or tape. All proceeds go directly to helping the Comstock horses!

Donate Generously! All donations completely tax deductible!

Tell Your Friends about Let 'em Run and these fabulous creatures!

Did we mention Donate Generously? All donations completely tax deductible!

A Word From Our President

Dear Family, Friends, and Loyal Members,

We are at war with our Nevada State Government over the wild horses! I will address that later, but for now, up-to-date battle reports can be accessed online [here](#). The site is prepared daily by our good partner, Willis Lamm, one of the most diligent advocates we work with.

As for yours truly, the beat goes on here at the six-dog ranch....3 wells and \$120,000 later, I probably have the best well in the Highlands – 40 gallons per minute and doesn't even stain the sinks! It's hard to find water that good in the area. So, onward and upward!!!

On a happy note, I spent a couple of really great days up in Redding, California with David and Joe Frizzell at Merle Haggard's ranch,

recording with Merle's great band, "The Strangers". David and I did a duet for his upcoming "David Frizzell and Friends" duet CD. Then Merle, David and I started work on the theme song for a friend's "This is Our Time". We'll be doing a TV special at the end of June to kick off the project.

David, the younger brother of Lefty Frizzell (one of the acknowledged foundation vocal stylists of Country Music) has written a biography of Lefty's life. The story is being used to create a script for a movie called, "The Lefty Frizzell Story" which will be produced by the director of "A River Runs Through It".

Let 'em Run Will Fly!

Former Commissioner and Air Guard Leader, Bill Sjovangen and Weaver Aircraft in Carson City, NV will fly this month to do an informal horse count survey to approximate the number of wild horses here.

Weaver Aircraft and Bill are donating their time and airplane so LERF will only have to pay for fuel. We've not had a count in a long time and are looking forward to the results. Thanks forever to Bill and Weaver Aircraft!

Horse Wars Update!

Last April, on my way to perform in Grass Valley, California, I got an emergency call from Willis Lamm of Least Resistance Training Concepts. Willis is one of the most active wild horse advocates we work with. He started out with “Lacy, we’ve got a situation”. Willis is a retired Fire/Rescue Officer, so I always know that means trouble! He went on “The Nevada Department of Agriculture (which controls the largest contiguous herd and possibly the only truly genetically viable herd of wild horses in the US, the Comstock herd here in the Virginia City Highlands) has announced to Associated Press that they intend to round up all twelve hundred animals as soon as possible and send them to sale”. Now, we advocates know that for the most untrained animals that means slaughter, so he had my attention. He said, “The Department has gone before the Interim Finance Committee at the Legislature and has requested \$57,000 for a round up. (This is from a state government that has a \$1.2 BILLION deficit!!) The new Department head, Tony Lesperance, has told four huge lies in order to get these funds. He said the horses are sickly, starving – that there is no grass on the range for them to eat and fourth, that the Department has no money with which to feed them. Not one of these statements is true!! Willis said, “The majority of these horses are fat and healthy, only a few very old horses at the end of their lifecycles are at all thin. They are not sick, there is so much grass on the range that if the horses are not out there to eat it we will have catastrophic wild fires as they did in Red Rock, a few miles from here when they removed the horses a few years ago. Fourthly, the Nevada Department of Agriculture has never spent one Nevada quarter to feed these animals on the range. We do that, most particularly the Virginia Range Wildlife Protection Association, headed up by Jeanne Gribbin.

“Willis” I said, “not two weeks ago, we helped this same Department of Agriculture take 55 horses off their hands and the public purse when Gibbons gutted their budget. We’ve got one of the largest landowners here to release them onto their part of the range after we had given the mares birth control shots. The Department was desperate

to rid themselves of the animals and we, the allied horse groups came to the rescue. Now, without the courtesy of an email or a phone call (Advocates are supposed to be given 60 days to help place the horses), this interim Director Lesperance announces he will remove as many of the horses as soon as possible.” Thanks for the heads-up, “Boys”! Thanks for the consideration.

We called an emergency meeting of the Alliance of Wild Horse Advocates and at that meeting, we declared war on the Department of Agriculture of this state.

My first act was to call Connie Nelson, Willie Nelson’s former wife and good friend. She got me in touch with Willie, who was just leaving for Europe. I asked him to do a Public Service Announcement to stop the slaughter. He did one, God Bless him, and had his friend, Snoop Dogg do one as well. We aired them on Willie’s Place on XM radio. The announcement alerted the public that the largest and possibly the only genetically viable herd left in the United States was about to be destroyed and to please call Governor Gibbons to protest. So they have, and I was amused to hear that the Governor even got calls from as far away as the Expedition to Antarctica!! We have since, with the help of an Internet cross marketing firm called 3000 Records, disseminated the PSAs to 10,000 band websites and all over the world to hundreds of independent radio stations. Thanks forever, all of you!! (You can access the PSAs at www.lacyjdalton.com and www.kbrhorse.net)

When you reach the Governor’s office now, there is an enormous amount of back-pedaling going on. They will say that they are not planning a round-up and that they’re working on a management plan which won’t be completed for 6 months – **Oh, Horse Manure!!** The proof is in the Associated Press’ announcement which can be accessed on the Horse Wars segment of www.kbrhorse.net. See for yourselves!! That is – again – a day-by-day, blow-by-blow chronicle of the battle as it unfolds. Willis is a wonderful writer with a good sense of humor, so the site is an easy and interesting read.

Lacy & Friends Visit the Wild Horse Sanctuary in Shingletown, California

June 11th and 12th, Carol Blossom, Sandy Dovell and Lacy and a few others went on a trail ride with Dianne Nelson, Director of the Wild Horse Sanctuary at Shingletown CA, near Mount Lassen, a fabu-



Lacy and Friend!

lous 5,000 acre preserve for wild horses. Dianne took in Mackay and Mimi, Let 'em Run's Mascots, and turned them loose on the Sanctuary when Lacy's ranch was without water for nearly two years.

We tried to locate Mackay and Mimi and see how they were faring in the scenic and pastoral Northern California preserve. You're invited to visit yourselves at Shingletown and see Mackay and Mimi, along with hundreds of other gorgeous wild

horses.

They offer trail rides with wonderful overnight stays, great food and good company.

The Wild Horse Sanctuary in Shingletown offers trail rides out to see the horses in their natural habitat and a great place to visit. Visit them online at www.wildhorsesanctuary.org or call (530) 335-2241.

Tell Mackay and Mimi I miss them....



Lacy and Dianne on the move!

Possible Slander, Libel & Other Desperate Dances by the Dept of Agriculture

In May, Willis Lamm, Lacy and Craig Downer, Wildlife Ecologist and Equine Expert, did a film for Nevada Tourism with media giant, Twelve Horses. You can access it at <http://blog.twelvehorses.com/page/2/> under the heading "Home Means Nevada for Wild Horses". It is a film promoting Eco and Adventure Tourism with Wild Horses here. It was a lovely piece and the Twelve Horses folks are just the best! A few days after the piece appeared on the blog, Ed Foster, the spokesperson for the Nevada Department of Agriculture, posted a message that appeared with his permission on the blog. Foster criticized

Twelve Horses for using "...two of Earth's most famous, chronic drug addicts to help deliver this message". Foster went on to say, "That doesn't do much for your or the horse people's Nevada 'cred'".

People started calling Willis, Craig and I saying, "Well, we knew you were a little crazy, but we've never heard you were chronic drug addicts!" Needless to say, we have lodged a formal complaint with the Nevada Attorney General and are waiting to see where this nasty little road ends up.

Lacy Sings for Judge Don Mosely in Las Vegas

May 29th, Lacy flew to Las Vegas to perform at the re-election campaign party for Judge Don Mosely, an almost 30-year veteran District Court Judge.

She performed with guitarist Steven Swinford, wonderful co-producer with Duane Sousa, of the "Wild Horse Crossing" CD, a project done with musical friends, poets and artists, all who donated 100% of their time and talent to create the CD of which 100% of the proceeds go to support the Wild Horses.

Joining Steven and Lacy on keyboards was Michael Hannah, formerly with Donna Summer, Crosby, Stills and Nash and Dan Fogelberg. The performance was very well received and Lacy got to meet with the head of the Ted Turner Foundation to ask for help with the horses.

Well known Las Vegas investigative reporter, George Knapp, did a great story on

his TV evening news show and also in his newspaper column. He wants to travel north to the Comstock and do a more in depth report on the Horse Wars. Judge Don went on camera in support of our plan for the Comstock herd.

The function took place at the luxurious and beautiful estate of Lanny Love, who also pledged to help with the Wild Horses.

Very Special Thanks to T.K. Crabb, the judge's Finance and Event Coordinator! T.K.'s got to be the best people-connector on the Earth and a great friend to our cause.

