

Join us in the same *spirit* as our first president, Wild Horse Annie!

International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros



PO Box 55, Lantry, SD 57636-0055 Phone 605-964-6866 Cell 605-430-2088 ispmb@lakotanetwork.com www.ispmb.org

STATEMENT OF KAREN SUSSMAN REGARDING ISPMB PROTECTION OF WILD HORSES

Lantry, SD.... October 11, 2016

It is unfortunate that in the times we live people may be quick to judge and slow to investigate or recognize the truth. The truth here is that some animals have died on the ISPMB ranch. Animal death is a fact every rancher and farmer in South Dakota as well as throughout the world knows is inevitable. But the circumstances of the animal deaths at the ISPMB Ranch have been wildly misrepresented. They did not die of intentional neglect or the disinterest of ISPMB. The statements of Colleen Burns are filled with significant falsehoods. The saddest part is that the damage she is attempting to thrust upon people that she no longer likes at ISPMB, is falling largely on the animals she falsely claims to care for, by damaging ISPMB's reputation she is harming our ability to obtain funds for hay, and with winters fast approach, the animals face a more serious risk of starvation than ever before.

I have dedicated my life, my fortune, and my reputation to the protection of wild horses throughout the United States. More than once in my 30 years with the organization, I have personally financed our activities to feed, study, care for and protect these beautiful animals. I have dedicated the majority of my time freely, only rarely collecting a salary, and selling my personal property to provide much needed funds to the organization for hay. To accuse me of cruelty or disinterest of these wild horses, that I have dedicated my life to protecting, is both outrageous and preposterous.

Since early this year, our organization has taken significant steps to increase in our funding in order to provide enough hay for the upcoming winter months. Donations to ISPMB are tax-deductible and will assist us in maintaining our horses in our conservation program. We have been developing an ongoing management plan which includes downsizing our herds, potential purchase of a larger property to reduce our costs of ever rising hay prices, and a long-range vision for our organization.

We are working in concert with the states attorneys' in our counties. However, if we do not raise enough funding by November 11, we are in danger of losing our four rare and unique wild horse herds and our sixteen years of studies we have conducted on the herds. Our most important study is population growth as related to the stability of family bands within the herds. We have proven that stable family bands are directly related to limiting population growth. The importance of this study alone could dramatically change the way our wild horses are managed on public lands and could ultimately reduce millions of dollars to the taxpayers and could save the last of America's diminishing wild horses.

It is important to know that donations to the sheriff's fund are not tax-deductible and while they will assist the state in caring for the horses, they will not help ISPMB keep its herds. Because if funding is not achieved by ISPMB to purchase our hay by November 11th, the bottom line is that our horses could ultimately be sold for slaughter. We cannot let that happen.

As the oldest wild horse and burro organization in our nation, our achievements have been outstanding. Had it not been for our efforts, today there would be no wild horses or burros left in our country. You can help by adopting one of our beautiful animals giving it a permanent home or contributing toward the purchase of hay at www.ispmb.org Current photos are available on our website.