

January 4, 2010

For Immediate Release

Denver Demonstration to Stop Wild Horse Roundups as Calico Roundup Continues

Denver, CO (January 4, 2010) – American wild horse and burro advocates are organizing a protest in downtown Denver on Thursday January 7. The public will assemble at 12 noon in front of Senator Mark Udall's office building (999 Eighteenth Street, North Tower) asking the Senator to help halt the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) massive roundup of wild horses currently living in the half million acre Calico Mountain Complex area in northwestern Nevada. The roundup started on December 28, and horses are currently being rounded up and several are already injured or dying in the harsh winter conditions.

Despite U.S. District Court Judge Paul Friedman's suggestion that the BLM postpone the roundup of over 2,700 wild horses, the BLM is proceeding with the roundup under harsh winter weather conditions that will most certainly result in many unnecessary injuries and deaths to the wild horses as they are run by helicopters over rough terrain to capture sites. The roundup is expected to cost the American tax payer over 1.7 million dollars.

On December 30th the BLM invited members of the national press to view the roundup operations. Photos taken by a BLM contract photographer showed frightened horses in holding pens with sweat-soaked coats generating clouds of vapor in the frigid air. The photos caused a storm of criticism from horse experts and were quickly removed. Current photos and a report from the roundup can be found here: <http://humanitythrougheducation.com/>

Public outcry to stop this roundup has been unprecedented, with the BLM receiving over 10,000 letters from the public requesting that they refrain from proceeding with the roundup. But once again the BLM is proving deaf to the American public's wishes in its plans to reduce wild horse numbers in the wild to an unsustainable level.

Concerned Americans continue to contact the White House and their elected officials with no response. The protest in Denver, along with others in cities across the country, seeks to bring public awareness to the growing outrage over the BLM's plan to exterminate our wild horses and burros, and also to the lack of response from our government.

Over 190 organizations including the Cloud Foundation and artists and celebrities from all over the country are calling for an immediate moratorium on wild horse roundups until the American public works with Congress to formulate a sustainable plan that protects and preserves wild horses in their homes on public lands in the West.

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