



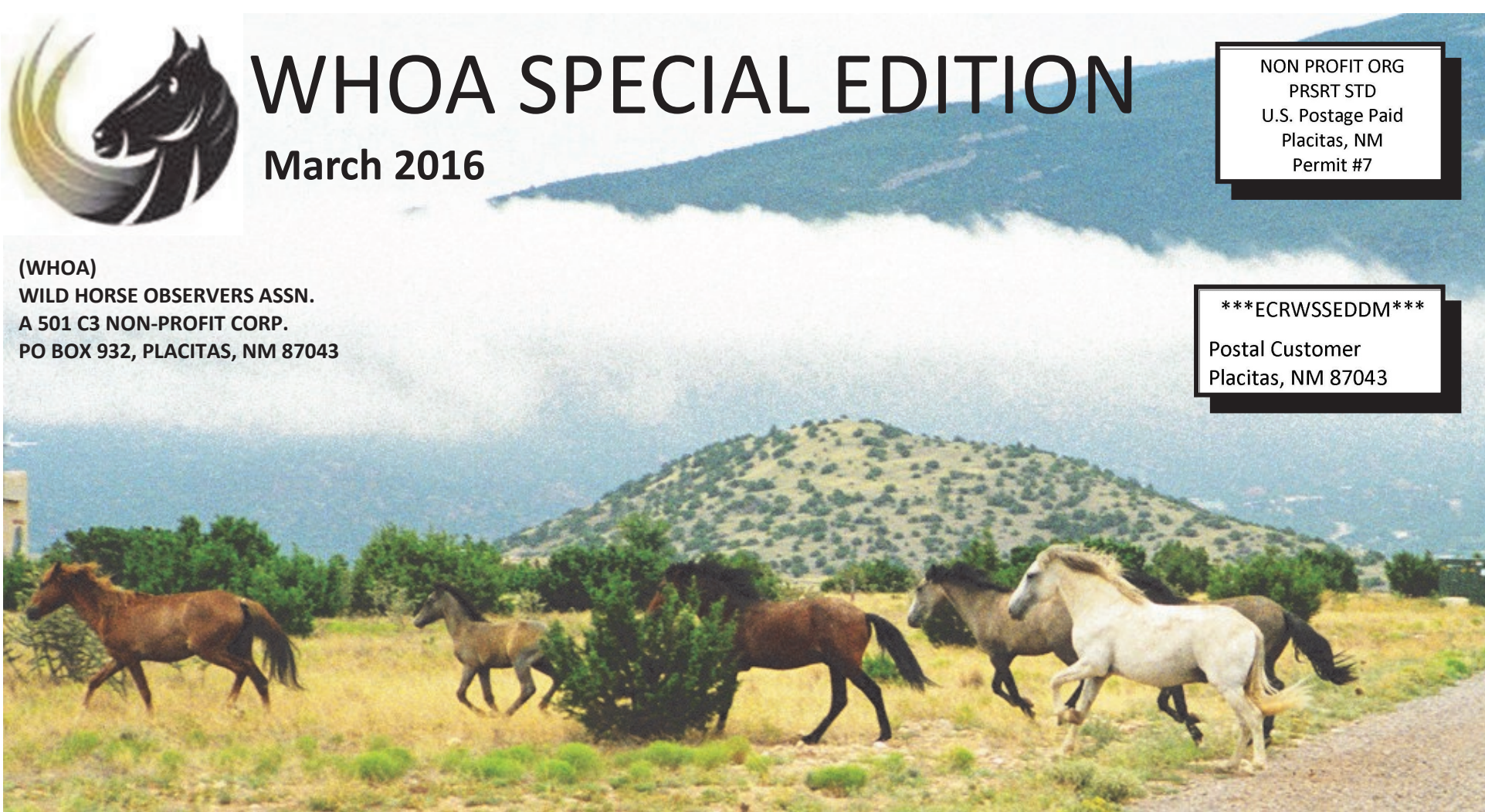
# WHO A SPECIAL EDITION

## March 2016

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(WHO A)  
WILD HORSE OBSERVERS ASSN.  
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# WHO A WINs vs NMLB in NM Supreme Court

**Thanks to Placitan donations:** Whoa filed suit against the NM Livestock Board for their illegal treatment and round ups of NM’s wild horses in Placitas. The District Court Judge ruled initially against WHOA. However, upon appeal to the NM Appellate Court, 3 judges to 0 ruled in favor of WHOA. The New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) and intervenors, represented by David Reynolds, then appealed to the NM Supreme Court. The NM Supreme Court ruled 4 to 0 against the NMLB and David Reynold’s request for appeal. The case was then remanded back to the Appellate Court which issued a mandate to the District Court Judge in favor of WHOA. Hence, 7 judges to 1 have ruled in favor of the wild horses of New Mexico. A number of wild horses have already been saved due to these thoughtful and well based rulings. Please stay tuned to whoanm.org for court updates. It’s not over yet! See whoanm.org for updates and court decisions.

## Ramifications Include

- ◆ Wild horses in NM are not livestock as contended by the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB). Hence they cannot be treated as trespass livestock on BLM lands.
- ◆ The BLM can no longer deem thousands of Placitan public comments in favor of the wild horses as “out of scope” !
- ◆ The horses of Placitas are wildlife, and are protected wildlife. If permitted to capture, the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) has to have their DNA tested. Moreover, It is LEGAL to manage NM wild horses with PZP contraception.
- ◆ It is not legal to kill/auction NM’s wild horses.
- ◆ NM Wild Horses are covered by the NM Animal Cruelty Law, unlike livestock, which are exempt from any protections.
- ◆ New Mexico’s Sheriffs are statutorily tasked with protection of protected wildlife.
- ◆ The San Felipe Pueblo proposal for a Wild Horse Sanctuary CAN stop the plans for mining, highway, and more on the Buffalo Strip, and these wild horses CAN be on the Bureau of Land Mgt. lands.



## Native Spanish Wild Horses of Placitas

**91 to 97% !**

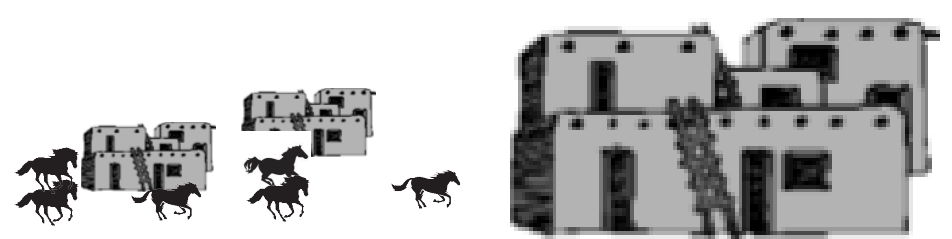
WHO A protective wild horse legislation of 2007, carried by the Honorable Senator Komadina, has been upheld by the NM High courts! Therefore, the last 4 horses illegally rounded up after the Appellate Court ruling, were DNA tested by the NMLB. These tests prove that they are not “dumped” horses as has been incorrectly stated. The DNA results ranged from 91 to 97% Spanish! Importantly, a wild horse does NOT have to be Spanish to be wild or wildlife since horses have never actually domesticated. Upon release, they reform their natural family units.

Horses evolved here and ONLY here on the continent of North America for 55 million years! The current horses evolved here over 1 million years ago. By contrast, our native Bison evolved originally in Asia have only been here for 200,000 years.

In the last 30 years, a new science utilizing mitochondrial (maternal) DNA has shed new light on the natural history of many species. This is utilized by the foremost Natural History Museums and scientists. Mitochondrial DNA has proven definitively that the horse that “left” less than 8000 years ago is genetically the same horse, which later returned.

Moreover, domestication is a genetic change, but “taming” or “habituating” a wild animal to human contact is not domestication, biologically or legally speaking. Importantly, neither the grasses nor the natural predators of the horse changed in the horse’s brief absence. Hence, horses are a re-introduced native species. As a true top down grazer, the horse has upper front teeth that mow, rather than pull, unlike bovines and all other ruminants (except camels). Unlike cattle, horses and Bison also roam naturally.

These Placitas horses, like ALL wildlife, are a **Natural Treasure**. They are environmentally important like wolves, Mt Lions, Bears, and Prairie Dogs!





# BUFFALO STRIP OPTIONS

## Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

### BLM’s Resource Management PLAN (RMP) Update May Ruin Rural Placitas with Mining, Highways and More: HOWEVER, the horses can save it.

The 3000 acre BLM lands on the north side of Placitas (Buffalo Strip) and the 1000 acre BLM lands on the east end of Placitas (Crest of Montezuma) are part of the last viable wildlife corridor off the Sandia Mountain, a part of the Rocky Mountain wildlife corridor which stretches from Canada to Mexico. The 3000 acre BLM land is also prime open space, hiking, and habitat for the historic and culturally important Native Wild Spanish Horses of Placitas. These open spaces and wild horses are also a main reason that many have bought their homes here. Realtors smartly use the wild horses in their ads.

Importantly, Placitan PUBLIC comments in favor of these horses on the BLM lands, can no longer be ILLEGALLY IGNORED by our NM Federal Senators and Representatives/BLM. As simply wildlife OR as protected wildlife, it does not matter in this instance. Up until now, **Placitans have been disenfranchised and their speech CHILLED as “out of scope”**. Importantly, *the overwhelming majority of the actual stake holders in this federal process are Placitans with about 6000 and the honorable Pueblo of San Felipe with about 3000. San Felipe has repeatedly declared that these horses are wild and has clearly stated to our government, since 1770, that they are not livestock! YES, SINCE 1770!*

NM Federal Representatives: These two BLM parcels and another 200 acre parcel by the Overlook subdivision are up for grabs for mining, development and a highway in the BLM’s Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan Update (RMP). Only our federal representatives can decide between the entities vying for these lands. Unfortunately, they have shown themselves to be pre-disposed to a politically expedient outcome and have gone to indefensible lengths to achieve it. READ ON!

**BUFFALO STRIP OPTIONS—Summary:** The local media consistently steers you, the public, toward the Santa Ana Pueblo and the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant (SADLH Land Grant. Their joint proposal will *not* allow the horses to remain and will *not* preserve the open spaces for the overwhelming majority “as promised”. Along with the option of these two entities, comes the I40 highway precursor, a road to northern Placitas AND mining. However, if you do enjoy our open spaces and the wild horses that grace them, the San Felipe Pueblo plans a Wild Horse Sanctuary with public access for perpetuity, with no mining or highway.

**OPTION I: SAN FELIPE PUEBLO:**  
– **WILD HORSE SANCTUARY** – **Wildlife Corridor** & Open Space. No mining and no highway but YES to Public Access and YES to wild horse management utilizing reversible PZP - Immuno-contraception as recommended by the National Academy of Science (NAS)!

**OPTION 2A: SADLH Land Grant:**  
- **NO WILD HORSES, NO Wildlife Corridor**, NO Open Spaces, A SOLAR FARM, a redundant Spanish Museum (Las Golandrinas Style of nearby Santa Fe), & a Big Parking Lot. Also included: a ROAD to Northern Placitas through this BLM, touted as a “fire exit” that was deemed unnecessary by Fire Chief, Bud Brinkerhoff, but will likely be justified by this Museum for the BIG PARKING LOT. SADLH rejected a community minded offer from the San Felipe Pueblo. More on that on page 5.



**Note:** See page 6 Current Highway Plans through Placitas.

**OPTION 2B: SANTA ANA Pueblo:** - SMALL Open Space, No Public Access, plus SADLH Land Grant Museum & Solar Farm & Parking Lot with Highway Precursor. NO WILD HORSES allowed but.... If horses show up?!! In September of 2015, this Pueblo sent 14 horses to Cattlemen’s Auction and left them there for likely slaughter. Luckily, the Pueblo of San Felipe found out, negotiated for their lives, and rescued them! This less than 1000 acre “Open Space” would not be able to function as a wildlife corridor or wildlife connection under 125, and it would have a mining strip next to it, and would be landlocked except for the highway precursor running through it.

**OPTION MINING 2A,B,C** - The two “Grazing Permittees” applied for gravel mining permits in 2006, and others have likely applied since then. One “grazing” permittees is the owner of the Waycor Mine property and has allowed the round up of Juan’s band on his property. He is also on the Board of Coronado Soil and Water “Conservation” District which is currently working illegally to get rid of the wild horses in their **clandestine AREA PLAN**. See page 7A.

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# WHY the San Felipe Pueblo SHOULD REGAIN the Buffalo Strip



## President Roosevelt-EXECUTIVE ORDER For San Felipe Pueblo

The lands granted to the Pueblos and Land Grants were accomplished by executive order and congressional acts. The San Felipe Pueblo later filed an aboriginal claim to the Buffalo Strip BLM lands (some 30 years ago.) Conquistador maps concur with their claim. They show that the San Felipe Pueblo was here at the Rio Grande, on the BLM and on both sides of the river in 1602. The Pueblo of Santa Ana was shown historically far to the west, up the Jemez River. Clearly the Pueblo of San Felipe has the valid aboriginal claim to Buffalo Strip.

Importantly, President Theodore Roosevelt backs up the San Felipe Aboriginal claim to the 3000 acre BLM lands in his 1902 Executive Order. President Roosevelt states that, though the San Felipe Pueblo may be losing some lands to the US government, if in the future ANY of these lands comes up for public disposal, these lands SHALL go back to the Pueblo of San Felipe. There is no Executive Order like this for any other Pueblo.

**EXECUTIVE ORDER White House, June 13, 1902:**  
**President Theodore Roosevelt**  
  
“It is hereby ordered” . . . “That if at any time the lands covered by any valid claim shall be relinquished to the United States or the claims lapse, or the entry be cancelled for any cause whatever, such lands SHALL be added to and become part of the reservation for the Pueblo of San Felipe ...”

**Proposed:** San Felipe Pueblo has proposed a Wild Horse Sanctuary on the entire 3000 acre Buffalo strip and committed to manage the wild horses using PZP contraceptive, no slaughter, no highway, no mining, AND public access in perpetuity! In so doing the Pueblo of San Felipe has thoughtfully turned away from mining. Here’s WHY? =>

**The San Felipe Pueblo declared the wild horses as NOT Livestock as far back as 1770. They also declared to the BLM in 2004 that the horses are Cultural Historic Properties. They have also repeatedly declared the horses WILD.**

The Pueblo of San Felipe is not making it up when they say that these legally WILD horses are Culturally-Religiously, important to them. WHOA’s research before Placitas was even founded, has proven that the honorable San Felipe Pueblo has been telling our government the truth for at least 246 years. The BLM has illegally IGNORED their responsibility to the San Felipe Pueblo by hiding this Cultural declaration.

First Americans here believe that people came from the center of the earth; however, horses were first seen on the Sun! History shows that when the horses came back with the Spanish, the First Americans ALREADY remembered them and had knowledge of them as SACRED. This is their religion, their “custom and their culture” and MUST be legally taken into account in the BLM’s federal process.

**Note:** Every federal and state government agency is legally tasked with protecting and preserving First American Culture and Religion. This includes the SADLH Land Grant which a political subdivision of the state.

By declaring the wild horses as cultural historic properties, the San Felipe Pueblo stopped a BLM round up on the 3000 acre BLM (Buffalo Strip). However, against a number of federal and state laws, this declaration has been hidden and has been illegally ignored. Even worse, since July of 2001, our local BLM opened up a log documenting their illegal meetings with the San Felipe Pueblo. These meetings were an illegal attempt to coerce this Pueblo to go against their culture - religion, to consider these horses as livestock. NOW, the BLM has the strong appearance of RETALIATION against this honorable Pueblo.

For example, the San Felipe Pueblo recently SAVED 14 wild horses (September 2015) from the Cattlemen’s Auction House which the Santa Ana Pueblo had DUMPED there. You may ask: Why does NOT the Santa Ana Pueblo believe the same as do the Pueblos of San Felipe and Santo Domingo, per the records in 1770? Records show that the Pueblo of Santa Ana was not even there in 1770. They were west, up the Jemez River.



## WILDLIFE CORRIDOR at San Felipe Pueblo

This Pueblo has 4 very large wildlife corridors under I25, and can, and currently does, provide connectivity to the Jemez, Ortiz, Sangre de Cristo, Sandia Mts., and the Rio Grande River for ALL of the wildlife. These corridors allow wild horses, as well as many other animals, to pass freely under I25.

## WATER FOR WILDLIFE ON THE BUFFALO STRIP

The San Felipe Pueblo has recently drilled a new water well adjacent to the 3000 acre BLM that can/will serve as a water source for the Wild Horse Sanctuary and wildlife corridor on the 3000 acre BLM.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO—TO STOP MINING & HIGHWAYS on the BUFFALO STRIP : SEE PAGE 7B

**Note:** Perennial springs run throughout Placitas. However, development, roads, and fencing (for domestic use) have complicated wildlife movement. Hence many people kindly put out water for the wildlife/corridor through our mountain community. This is not illegal and is a property right, despite various anonymous-bully threats posted w/o permission on Federal Postal properties and people’s homes.



# Why SHOULDN'T the SADLH Land Grant get the Buffalo Strip? 6 Reasons



- 1)GAO Report
- 2) WHOA Mediation
- 3) Crest of Montezuma
- 4) San Felipe Negotiation
- 5) Placitas Area Plan
- 6) SADLH and Community

## 1) Government Accountability Report (GAO) - The U.S. Does Not Owe Land to the Land Grants

The SADLH Land Grant is currently trying to acquire half of the Buffalo Strip, 1500 acres of Federal lands. However their Land Grant boundaries have never included the Buffalo Strip, per the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Moreover, the 2004 Government Accountability (GAO) Report on Land Grants requested by Tom Udall, Jeff Bingaman, and Pete Domenici, found that the Land Grants are not owed any lands:

“ . . . the U.S. did not violate any fiduciary duty to non-Pueblo community grantees “. Spanish Land grants claimed they had lost 3 million acres in the confirmation process (in part by losing their community lands). However since then, it states that the Land Grants have lost another 5 million acres (of their own accord). Hence, the US maintains that it does not legally owe the Spanish Land Grants any lands.

## 2) WHOA Mediation 2008:

Though the GAO Report found that the U.S. did not owe any lands to the Spanish Land Grant heirs, WHOA in all due respect, worked with the SADLH Land Grant in hopes of a Win-Win solution for the horses and the community that respects them.

**WHOA Respectful of SADLH Land Grant:** In 2008 WHOA set-up a mediation with the SADLH Land Grant including: Senator Udall’s staff, Pathways, Las Placitas Association, and a state Spanish Land Grant representative. WHOA hired as mediator the Chair of the Hispano Round Table, a direct descendant of the conquistadors with no requirement to support WHOA. Regrettably, WHOA was unaware of the Puebloan plans regarding the BLM at that time.

**WHOA’s Proposal:** SADLH Land Grant would obtain the 500 acres they had requested of the BLM Buffalo Strip for housing for Land Grant heirs. The remaining 2,500 acres would remain as open space for the horses and the community.

The then president of the Land Grant ended the mediation with this question: “What about the people?” However, about half of the ~ 50 Land Grant people did approve and later wrote to the BLM that the rest of the BLM lands “SHOULD” rather than “COULD” remain as an open space, in contrast to the Land Grant Leader’s written statement. WHOA submitted a summary report to the BLM and to Sandoval County, to no avail. The Land Grant has since come up with proposals to obtain more and more of the Buffalo Strip without the horses, despite the 85.7% of Placitans in favor of the horses.

## 3) CREST OF MONTEZUMA (1000 acre BLM)-SADLH

In 2008 Pathways, Representative Heinrich, and others were working to protect the Crest of Montezuma, (contiguous with the Sandia Mts.), by having it transferred from BLM to Forest Service, as is the rest of Sandia. Pathways had been working with the SADLH Land Grant leadership for their inputs in community minded fashion! Representative Martin Heinrich and Pathways were also working to procure and preserve the adjacent private lands as part of the wildlife corridor.

However, not long before the protective federal bill and associated private lands appropriations would have passed the House, the SADLH Land Grant’s board asked Representative Heinrich, BEHIND THE SCENES, to pull the bill. Martin Heinrich forthwith, pulled the bill, without notifying Pathways. This was particularly detrimental because the Representative’s term was almost up. He was in a tight race and the House was shifting from one party to the other. Hence the window of passage for this environmentally protective bill then closed.

WHOA obtained both the unsigned written request from the Board and the signed confirmation from Representative Heinrich. These facts were, however, publically denied by the current SADLH president. However to his credit, the Representative Heinrich did not deny this in follow-up meetings with WHOA. However, the Crest remains unprotected.

Additionally in these letters, the SADLH Land Grant Board asked to receive the private property procurement money instead of the Forest Service. This was so that the LAND GRANT could then trade this private acreage next to the Crest for the 500 acre BLM lands of the Buffalo Strip. Later the San Felipe Pueblo bought these private lands and offered them to the SADLH Land Grant. However, the SADLH Land Grant declined this kind offer, see below.

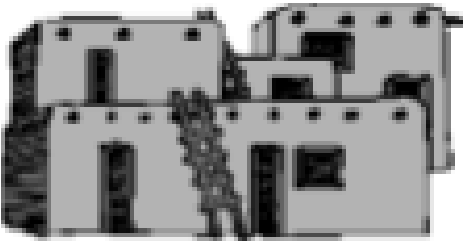
Though the SADLH Land Grant President stated on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to the BLM that: “There is a danger that with the lack of affordable land for future generations the Indo-Hispano community rooted in hundreds of years of existence will disappear from the area. . . Just look at Santa Fe and other areas where locals can no longer live.” The “SADLH Community is available, willing, and interested in working with BLM and others to reach creative solutions for the greatest benefits of all the citizens of these wonderful assets.” SADLH Leadership, however, has not followed through to date, on this declaration.

## 4) SAN FELIPE Mediation with SADLH Land Grant:

On June 26<sup>th</sup> 2014 the SADLH Land Grant reported again regarding “Disposition of the Buffalo tract of BLM land. . .” “The Land Grant would like to be able to construct homes on part of this property for descendants of the original Land Grant settlers.”, this despite the ~ 1000 acres of vacant lands the SADLH Land Grant owns in Placitas, much of it unused and vacant IN the historic village. The SADLH Land Grant leadership has not awarded these lands to the heirs.







**San Felipe Community Mediation:** In respectful community minded response, on July 7, 2014, the Pueblo of San Felipe reported mediations with “Wayne Sandoval, of the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant, about giving the SADLH Land Grant approximately 200 acres for housing development...” near the beautiful Crest of Montezuma!

This was an attempt to bring the community together, while preserving the 3000 acre BLM lands for: the wild horses, the wildlife corridor, and for the benefit of the overwhelming majority of Placitans. All this negotiation and sharing was proposed to help the SADLH Land Grant, despite the GAO Report ruling that SADLH Land Grant was not owed any lands.

Rather than accept this kind offer, the SADLH Land Grant, who had originally asked the BLM for 500 acres for “ a green housing development”, NOW requested 1500 acres of the BLM for non-housing, redundant museum, and a solar farm presumably as payback for this land. This, however, would spoil Placitas for most of the community’s stake holders and their documented desires for open spaces and wild horses. This would also threaten Placitans with a highway pre-cursor through the Buffalo Strip which 87% of Placitans strongly oppose.

**SADLH Land Grant and wild horses:** The SADLH Land Grant leadership, like the BLM and federal representatives (so far!), does not consider the law, the science, or the community, though the entire Placitas community has gone out of their way repeatedly to help the SADLH Land Grant, as shown again in the Placitas Area plan below. Moreover, the SADLH leadership deems the horses as “feral”, livestock, or, “beasts of burden”. This is both legally and biologically incorrect.

## 5) Placitas Area Plan 2008/9 & SADLH

Sandoval County started their Placitas Area Planning process with a written plan to KICK the western half of Placitans (Sun Dance, La Mesa, and Los Ranchos subdivisions) OUT of Placitas, this by re-naming their communities as “Bernalillo Heights”. WHOA’s investigation uncovered that the then president of the SADLH Land Grant complained at legislature in the Land Grant Interim committee on 7/31/2006 of “identity theft”, since these subdivisions were not part of the Historic Land Grant of Placitas; however, importantly, neither was the Buffalo Strip.

Land Grant fears stated as “the Anglo population aims to further erode what is left of the traditional power base” was not communicated by Sandoval County to Placitans, as neither was the source of the eviction from Placitas to “Bernalillo Heights”. Sandoval County had, however, hired a renowned Land Grant activist to accomplish the Placitas Area Plan.

“Bernalillo Heights” was soundly and VOCIFEROUSLY rejected by both ends of Placitas in a standing room only meeting, with people sitting on the floor, in the aisles, and more literally stacked up outside the open windows.

However, ALL participating Placitans SINCERELY and RESPECTFULLY supported the Land Grants desires through the Placitas Area Plan to have separate legal zoning requirements for the historic Village of Placitas, per their heartfelt request. To help further understand the SADLH Land Grant’s role or reasoning in all this, WHOA researched and is providing some of the historical background below from two recent anthropological papers.

## 6) SADLH Land Grant and Community

The “Huertanos” were “landless families” who petitioned Spain successfully for use of lands near Diamond Tail/ Placitas as farmland in 1765 but were ordered to leave this settlement called San Jose de Las Huertas, by the Mexican government in 1826. Approximately 10 yrs. later, it is stated that some of these Huertanos returned to found Placitas.

In the two anthropological papers about these communities, Rothchild, of Columbia University, examines the strong social identity and kinship of both communities. As border communities based on subsistence farming, the close knit community bonds are shown to have been forged by fire through constant threats. They were allowed to settle here in order to provide protection for Santa Fe.

These papers also show a strong resistance to others, or outsiders. This is somewhat understandable, but also show a strongly xenophobic society. They are described in terms of their resistance to: “foreign influx” and “Anglo immigrants”, etc. This resistance is shown to have survived to this day. However, most “newcomers” are happily unaware of this. This particular resistance, though understandable, is found beyond Placitas and throughout New Mexico.

This resistance is more aptly discussed in these papers as a resistance to “modern” society, “material culture” and the “endless cycle of acquisition”, “relative to, “their pobre legacy”. . . referring to poor, rural, traditionally-Catholic Hispanics in New Mexico. . .” Moreover, here is some legal basis for this resistance to others in light of the “casta” system described. There were over 20 hierarchical tiers based on races and their mixes, imposed by Spanish rule of law. First Americans were not included unless in a mix. This was upheld and administrated through the Catholic Church.

The SADLH Land Grant currently stated on 6/26/14 that they have “approximately 1000 acres” and WHOA has verified this. Why are not these lands being used for a Museum and a solar farm or better yet housing? One of these properties is over 200 acres with open southern exposure and would be perfect for a solar farm. The other large tracts of SADLH lands are IN the historic village of Placitas, a perfect place for the “MUSEUM” and housing.

## BLM ISSUES OVERVIEW

Currently, the SADLH Land Grant and the Santa Ana Pueblo with ~1000 people and ~ 50 people respectively are clearly favored by the BLM and our federal representatives. The representatives alone make the final determination of who obtains the Buffalo Strip with inclusion of Mining and highway, VERSUS the 6000 Placitans and 3000 San Felipe Pueblos who want a wildlife corridor, wild horses, no mining, and no highway. One example of “favor”:

**On 5/12/11 the BLM Realtor met with the Santa Ana Pueblo. Meeting minutes written by the BLM Realtor state:**

**“BLM is interested in disposing of this because of horse, boundary, ROW and local resident issues we deal with daily. Tom suggested that Santa Ana mention this to Heinrich when they meet with him.”**

WHOA has strong evidence showing **continuous back room deals** by this federal agency who would like to “dispose” the Placitas BLM lands to the Santa Ana Pueblo and the SADLH Land Grant, as both are on record of not allowing the horses to remain:

This is in blatant disregard of what the overwhelming majority of the people want, the rightful aboriginal claim by the honorable San Felipe Pueblo, and the rule of law in many areas including the BLM’s plan to use the Recreation Parks and Public Purposes Act in an illegal manner to disenfranchise First Americans from First American lands.

## SEE PAGE 7B for WHAT YOU CAN DO!





# Road to Northern Placitas <=> Loop Rd: I-25 to I-40

## Crossing the Buffalo Strip



### BACKGROUND:

The Road to Northern Placitas is a highway pre-cursor found in the Sandoval County Annual Development Report of 2007. This was found yet again in their current 5 year plan (2013-2018).

Sandoval County requested the BLM for a right-of-way (ROW) in 2008, specifically for a highway precursor and WHOA gained proof of this. However, the BLM illegally denied receiving this request in 2009, only to later admit that yes, the request was made in a “confidential comment” by the Sandoval County Development Director Michael Springfield. WHOA later gained proof that the BLM had received this “confidential” comment which contained the right-of-way (ROW) request for a road to northern Placitas, a highway precursor.

Sandoval County has now illegally denied further open record requests. They state that the “DEVELOPER”, whom they refuse to name, and who was working on all the COUNTY DOCUMENTS which WHOA had requested, went out of business. The County wrote a non-binding resolution against the highway, but refused to include the highway pre-cursor in the resolution. They also refused to provide documentation requested on the “closed” meeting for eminent domain planning (private land takings). Michael Springfield stated in 2008 that the County was given right-of-way through the Baca/WAYCOR Mining property at the Algodones I-25 exit. While Placitans were sleeping, the WAYCOR MINING operation on the Baca Lands had already completely flattened the ridges there, making the BLM easily accessible from I-25. Sandoval County may or may not be actually against mining, but they are FOR a highway.

### TIMELINE: I-40 Bypass thru Placitas (Loop Rd)

(A Road to Northern Placitas => Highway Precursor )

**2001 NM Dept. of Transportation (NMDOT) Plans 20,000 trips/day thru the Placitas BLM.**

**2008 March—WHOA discovers Sandoval County (SC) 2007 Loop Rd Plans & blows whistle.**

**2008 SC writes formal request for a Right-of-Way (ROW) thru BLM for Loop Rd Precursor.**  
WHOA blows the whistle, BLM denies receipt, states that SC Development Director Michael Springfield comment is “confidential”. WHOA then gains this comment and proof of BLM’s receipt of the Sandoval County ROW request.

**2008 WHOA discovers Sandoval County obtained a Right-of-Way** from Mr. Baca for the Loop Rd from I-25, at the Algodones Exit, to BLM per SC Development Director Michael Springfield.

**2009 Sandoval County Placitas Area Plan** (page 65) states that “virtually all participants” are overwhelmingly in opposition to a proposed Loop Rd through Placitas” .. However SC “cannot forever close the opportunity . . .based on future needs . . . in other parts of the county”

**2010 Under constant pressure from WHOA**, Sandoval County published a Non-Binding LOOK Good Resolution, feigning to be against the Loop Rd. SC however refused to include a resolution against the planned highway pre-cursor, which they had specifically asked of the BLM in their Right-of-Way request. SC moved WHOA to the end of Commission meeting, so that Placitans would not hear this and other related issues.

**2014 WHOA donor sponsored Independent Poll of Placitans** showed 87% of Placitans are Opposed to the Highway, also known as the Loop Rd, or I40 bypass.

**2015 WHOA obtains Sandoval County 2013-2018 FIVE YEAR PLAN after SC denied WHOA open record request—SC CAUGHT! Loop Road Planning AGAIN!**

**2015 Sandoval County denies yet another open records request.** But, very quickly admits that a Developer had been working on the Loop Rd COUNTY Documents which WHOA specifically requested. SC refuses to name the Developer and “states” that the Developer now went out of business. Will ANY excuse do? SC also denied the request for the closed meeting agenda required for eminent domain planning.

**2016 The Right-of-Way (ROW) from I-25 to the BLM has been made road ready.** It has been cleared of ridges and canyons by WAYCOR’s mining operation there. The owner of this property and the man who granted this section of ROW to SC is ALSO on the Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District.

### 2016 Buffalo Strip is Highway-READY for Out-of-State DEVELOPERS !!

Placitas remains OVERWHELMINGLY UNITED for the horses at 85.7% and against this highway at 87%, as proven by an independent poll commissioned by WHOA and paid for by Placitans in 2014.

However, one of the OUT-OF-STATE DEVELOPERS, who has already subdivided their property and is in close proximity to the BLM, has “discreetly” worked the back rooms to divide wild horse advocates. Standard moves, easily seen & exposed.

Teams that “represent Placitans” ignore this issue.

### NO NEED FOR ROAD TO NORTHERN PLACITAS: FIRECHIEF BUD BRINKERHOFF Letter: Excerpt July 23rd 2008

“I am currently the Fire Chief for the Placitas Volunteer Fire Brigade. I have held this position for over 3 years and have been an officer for the Brigade for several years prior to that. . . .

Our Fire Department provides fire and rescue operations for the greater Placitas area. We also provide primary response to the Sandia Pueblo and mutual aid to Bernalillo, Algodones and surrounding areas. . .

As the Placitas region grows it is conceivable that the traffic flow requirements of Hwy. 165 may necessitate the widening of that road to a 4 lane, similar to that on Hwy. 550.

The Fire Department has NOT identified the need for another road system either to the north or east of Placitas Village to be necessary for us to provide adequate fire and rescue service to the Placitas region.”

Chief Bud Brinkerhoff  
Placitas Volunteer Fire Brigade

All TILES in this edition are snapshots from the beautiful Community Mosaic Mural, “Protect Our Wildlife Corridors”, designed by Laura Robbins & Cirrelda Snider-Brian at Foothill Studio. Hundreds of Placitans participated in their creation. The amazing murals are located at the entrance of Placitas along NM165, on the walls of the recycling center.



# Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District’s Area Plan

(Clandestine elimination of “feral horses”)

## No Public or Pueblo Input

Soil and Water Conservation Districts were formed in 1935 to help ensure that the U.S. does not cause another DUST Bowl. These districts also have the legislative requirement/intent to “preserve wildlife”. However, the chair of the Coronado Soil and Water District (CSWD) along with the paid admin are two of the people who have opposed the legally wild horses and have intervened against WHOA in court on the side of the New Mexico Livestock Board (NMLB) with Attorney David Reynolds.

Despite the higher courts ruling the horses legally wild, the Coronado SWD is belligerently attempting to ramrod through an Area Plan without public input and potentially in contempt of court, which treats the horses as trespass livestock.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are part of the NM Department of Agriculture. This group meets the third Thursday of every month at 9:00 am in the small building farthest to the west behind the Sandoval County building on Idalia Rd.

- 1. This AREA Plan goes against the higher Courts mandate to the lower court.
- 2. Coronado SWD is legislatively required to preserve the horses whether they are protected wildlife or simply wildlife.
- 3. Wild horses are legally wildlife.
- 4. This AREA Plan is going against the NM Soil and Water District’s legislative intent which is to protect/preserve wildlife.
- 5. The will of the people is being ignored. The will of 87.5% of Placitans (6000) people and the Pueblo of San Felipe (3000) people are being ignored in favor of the few, the SADLH Land Grant Leadership and the Santa Ana Pueblo.
- 6. Coronado is specifically avoiding pubic input as discussed in their meeting, though requested by Supervisor Miles.
- 7. They are specifically avoiding First American input, although they are required to protect and preserve First American Culture and Religion.
- 8. Coronado is illegally taking into account only specific “custom and culture” of the few who do not want the wild horses.
- 9. The chair of the Coronado SWD leases the land he lives on, which has an acequia. This chair has complained that the horses damaging this acequia, however videotape of the entire acequia, from it’s perennial stream start in a creek bed to his leased property of a few acres, shows otherwise. The video shows that it is the horses, not he, who maintains the acequia. Where the wild horses have access to the acequia, it is maintained and clean, and where the horses do not have access due to fencing, it is seriously long overgrown and filled in and plugged with roots and weeds. Due to changing weather patterns there has not been enough water to make it to his property for over 5 years.
- 10. As chair of Coronado SWD, this man writes for and obtains thousands of dollars from the State for maintenance of this dry acequia. Again, the horses have not pushed in the sides of the acequia, they have only groomed it’s narrow interior like a golf course, keeping it unplugged and clear where they have access to it. The remainder of this acequia is not maintained.
- 11. This “AREA PLAN”, as many other items on their agenda, has been a permanent fixture on the agenda for years, such that the public cannot know when or IF anything is actually happening. Coronado has not notified the Pueblos or Placitans of the DRAFT plan and are working as fast as they can in secret, specifically stating that they do not want public input, as per statements made on video (will be available on the WHOA website).

Color Cover Photo of Juan  
Lynne Pomeranz, Photographer  
<http://www.lynnepomeranz.com/>



## WHAT YOU CAN DO!

### BUFFALO STRIP – No Mining, No Highway, Yes Horses

#### BLM Resource Management (RMP) Update: (PUBLIC Talking Points to officials below)

**U.S. Senator Udall:** Phone: (202) 224-6621; Fax: (202) 228-3261  
Email: [Anthony\\_sedillo@tomudall.senate.gov](mailto:Anthony_sedillo@tomudall.senate.gov)

**U.S. Senator Heinrich:** Phone: 202.224.5521  
Email: [maya\\_hermann@heinrich.senate.gov](mailto:maya_hermann@heinrich.senate.gov)

**U.S. Representative Grisham:** Phone:(202) 225-6316  
Email [alma.acosta@mail.house.gov](mailto:alma.acosta@mail.house.gov)

**Governor Martinez: (505) 476-2200**  
Email: [keith.gardner@state.nm.us](mailto:keith.gardner@state.nm.us)

**NM BLM Director, Ms. Amy Leuders :** (505) 954-2222 Docs: [http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Rio\\_Puerco\\_Field\\_Office/rpfo\\_planning/rpfo\\_draft\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/fo/Rio_Puerco_Field_Office/rpfo_planning/rpfo_draft_rmp.html)

#### TALKING POINTS

- 1) Ask for the San Felipe Pueblo Wild Horse Sanctuary on the BLM with population mgmnt utilizing PZP contraceptive.
- 2) Request NO Road to Northern Placitas as this is the Sandoval County requested pre-cursor to the Rt14 and I-25 connection to I-40. (Since this road HAS been requested and we have proof, you CAN give input.)
- 3) Request NO MINING and reference carcinogenic health concerns due to small particulates.
- 4) The decision of which Pueblo or Land Grant will get the Buffalo Strip CANNOT be decided by the BLM, but only by our NM federal representatives. We cannot let them hide behind the BLM. This can legally only be decided by them.
- 5) Our U.S Senators and U.S. Reps need Land Grant votes across NM to get the rural NM vote. However, instead of leading and lifting people up with knowledge, communication and education regarding JOBS, regarding community with all, they instead allow NM to be held back which hurts all, Including our wildlife as well as the future of New Mexico. Tourism uplifts all and is a LAND BASED GREEN growth industry. LAND Grants are land based and these horses are a Historic Spanish point of pride.
- 6) Donate to the WHOA legal fund which has blocked mining and highways for 8 years and counting, for wildlife habitat.
- 7) Stop “setting up” “Placitan” teams which feign to represent Placitas but intentionally ignore 87% of Placitans.

**WHOA Contact: Email: [wildhorsesnm@yahoo.com](mailto:wildhorsesnm@yahoo.com). All Special Edition References & Research Materials available upon request. Website: [whoanm.org](http://whoanm.org)**

**NOTE:** These 3 Fed. representatives above, spent \$15 million for a wildlife park just south of Albuquerque after Gov. Richardson’s WILD HORSE STATE PARK got shot down for less than \$3Million. It’s time for these representatives to ACCOMPLISH this FOR ALL Placitans, for the rightful Pueblo, for the only remaining Sandia Wildlife Corridor, and for the Native Wild Horses and wildlife that grace them. Tourism brings NM over 11 Billion/yr plus 1500 new jobs. NM’s Livestock industry brings in less than \$2Billion, a non-growth industry.





DAVID BUENO - PHOTOGRAPY



DAVID BUENO—PHOTOGRAPHY

## CORONADO AREA PLAN

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- ◆ Attend the Coronado monthly third Thurs of Each Month. They will be reviewing their Secret DRAFT Plan.
- ◆ Ask for a copy of their DRAFT AREA PLAN.
- ◆ Ask Coronado to stop targeting wildlife they are legally supposed to preserve.
- ◆ Ask Mr. Witte to ensure that Coronado is not operating in contempt of court. Chair is a defendant/intervenor in WHOA vs NMLB.
- ◆ Donate to WHOA legal/newsletter fund.
- ◆ Contact:  
NM Secretary of Agriculture Jeff Witte:  
Email [jeff.witte@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:jeff.witte@nmda.nmsu.edu)  
  
Chair of Coronado Lynne Montgomery:  
Email: [sunfarm@toast.net](mailto:sunfarm@toast.net)  
  
Governor Martinez: (505) 476-2200  
Email: [keith.gardner@state.nm.us](mailto:keith.gardner@state.nm.us)

## SANDOVAL SIGNPOST

### Biased vs Wild Horses?

(comments: [email@sandovalsignpost.com](mailto:email@sandovalsignpost.com))

#### Ask the owner/publisher to:

- ◆ Stop performing wild horse round-ups himself, per police report case no. 11-1147 of 7/3/14
- ◆ Stop withholding information from the readership about the San Felipe Pueblo and their proposal for a Wild Horse Sanctuary versus the Santa Ana Pueblo: (see <http://whoanm.org/wordpress/?s=san+felipe+press+release>)
- ◆ Truthfully cover WHOA wins in NM’s highest courts. In media black out for 3 months.
- ◆ Report the Signpost’s conflict of interest against the legally wild horses of this area as formally requested by WHOA.
- ◆ Be transparent about WHOA’s comments/answers to questions instead of insinuating that WHOA did not answer. (Emails available upon request)
- ◆ Cease/Desist defamatory statements regarding WHOA: (see <http://whoanm.org/wordpress/?s=sandoval+signpost>)
- ◆ Stop providing previews of pro-horse letters to the opposition so that they can provide rebuttals, while not reciprocating the courtesy.

**PLACITAS A PLACE FOR HORSES**  
by **DAVID CRAMER**  
<http://www.blurb.com/b/214528-placitas-a-place-for-horses>