

Annual Report for Andean Tapir Fund, Covering from July 1st, 2010, to June 30th, 2011

By Craig C. Downer, Wildlife Ecologist, President ATF, P.O. Box 456, Minden, NV 89423. ccdowner@yahoo.com. T. 775-267-3484. Cell 775-901-2094

For Kathryn Thomas, Secretary ATF, Betty Kelly, M.D., Treasurer of ATF, and others. Date of report/write up: September 2, 2011. Annual meeting held June 26, 2011, In attendance Kathryn & Margaret Thomas and Craig C. Downer.

Introduction

Due to extreme activities of the Andean Tapir Fund, I have had to put off writing this report until now. In summary, this past year has been an extremely busy one for the Andean Tapir Fund as for myself. With the expanded mandate now including wild horses and burros as well as continuing activities for the mountain tapir, many opportunities have presented themselves, some quite exciting. As president of the ATF, I have tried to follow through on as many of these as I could, as well as to gather and send funds to northern Peru so that opportunities there for mountain tapir protection could be seized. Most of my activities have been centered on defending the wild horses and burros here in America, however. I break my report into two sections: first, as customary, activities and achievements for the mountain tapir will be presented, then second, I will give an outline of my many activities to protect wild horses and burros and augment their positive appreciation during the past year. The achievements are mounting on both fronts and major breakthroughs are near. Please note also the customary budgetary report for ATF for this year at the end of this written report.

Mountain Tapir

As indicated in the budgetary report at end, I have sent four wires of funding to Sr. Alejandro Zegarra in Peru to continue the project to establish the Cerro Negro Nature Sanctuary and to promote the protection of the mountain tapirs and associated habitat and species in the Piuran Cordillera. He has continued to represent the cause of the mountain tapir in this fascinating region, to organize local communities, and to coordinate with provincial leaders. As a consequence, the General Assembly to declare the sanctuary is ripe to happen. All that is lacking is the minimum \$6,000 U.S. to assemble the communities in the provincial capitol of Ayabaca, have the civil engineer prepare the sanctuary map, and have the lawyer do the legal documents and presentations. The communities and provincial government are greatly in favor of the sanctuary, as well as higher state and national officials. Now all that remains to be done is to follow through. For this reason, I give top priority for the Andean Tapir Fund to acquire this \$6,000 as soon as possible before the people there lose faith. A budget has been prepared for this and I am applying to various funding organizations.

One significant achievement of the Peruvian ATF team concerns the thwarting of some animal traffickers in the Piuran Cordillera near Tapal. Reports of a young mountain tapir and a young spectacled bear were received. Both had been taken away from their mothers and were being held by campesinos near Tapal, a highland community. After an extensive preparation, including detective work and the organization of a team of 15

persons including local guides from Tapal, a raid on the illegal holding corral was planned in March, 2011. The upshot of this is that the two young animals, tapir and bear, were liberated into healthy wild habitat. The bear went into a deep and forested canyon, and the tapir traveled a long way to the north in upper cloud forest and paramo crossing into Ecuador. Since the two had been eating well on their own in the enclosure, it is believed that they have a good chance of surviving in the wild, through the employment of their native instincts and with some help from their friends, fellow tapirs/bears. This project involved extensive tracking & observations of habitat conditions were made.

Another fine achievement of the ATF through the work of Alejandro Zegarra and associates is the official recognition, and bequeathed authority that goes with this, of the *Guardianes de Los Paramos y Bosques de Niebla* (Guardians of the Paramos and Cloud Forests). This received much publicity and gives these patrols (composed of young local conservationists) the authority to stop illegal destruction of forest, bush- and grass-land, killing of mountain tapirs, spectacled bears, etc., taking of orchids, big trees, etc. This is a cadre which ATF's activities have helped to build over several years; and to see this official recognition shows that our work is, indeed, paying off. It should be noted that these Guardians could become future official protectors, or rangers, of the soon to be declared *Santuario Natural de Cerro Negro* that will save the core population of wild mountain tapir in northern Peru.

Other achievements include the recording of a radio program: "*La Agonia de los Tapires Andinos*" that took place at the Ayabaca radio studio on January 3-4, 2011, with Zegarra and host, and has since been frequently broadcast to make people more aware of the value and plight of the endangered mountain tapir and all the other species that go with him, their intrinsic importance, and their importance to the regional watershed, air quality, eco-tourism, and preservation of the world's diversity of living species. Sr. Zegarra has also continued to motivate/advise the activities of local conservation patrols and to keep the local population on top concerning the very crucial resistance to mining intervention, as through the blocking of roads allowing miners in, the exposing of lies and distortions put out by the mining companies and their adherents. Zegarra continues to give talks also to government officials and to the general public to keep this resistance going. So far the big transnational companies have not begun their open pit mining due to this resistance – and this is a laudable victory in itself!

After the above described thwarting of the traffickers, who were foreigners according to sources, Zegarra reports having his life threatened on more than one occasion. He claims to be followed and threatened also by those wanting to see the big mining take over in the Piuran Andes in order to have some several years of work – but at what a devastating ecological expense! He says he needs to be very careful and to have a bodyguard in some areas as well as a personal pistol.

In his latest report covering his June 2010 activities, Zegarra signals that with the recent election of a new national *Presidente del Peru*, the situation for conservation is looking more positive. Sr. Ollanta Humala is the new president, and the former representative for this part of n. Peru Sra. Marisol Espinoza, is the president's right hand woman. Humala

has indicated his support for conservation in the Piuran Andes, but it remains to be seen whether he can resist the pressures put on him by the mining companies. Sra. Espinosa will be steadfast in her commitment. This makes it all the more important to hold the General Assembly in Ayabaca and have the Cerro Negro Nature Sanctuary declared democratically. This will further discourage the mining companies. Now with the increase in value of gold and other metals to record levels, the pressure is mounting to violate the mountain and its forests and paramos and to destroy the last remaining endangered mountain tapirs, etc.

Sr. Zegarra realized many different activities for the ATF this past year. These are too numerous to describe in this report, but they are revealed in the reports and articles he sent me, a few of which are included with this report. I now continue with ATF's work for the wild horses and burros.

Wild Horses and Burros

Now with the expansion of the ATF mandate to include all the odd-toed, hoofed ungulates, i.e. those of the mammalian order Perissodactyla including members of the tapir, horse and rhino families, as ATF president and wildlife ecologist, I have been very busy protecting what remains of America's last wild horses and burros in the wild. Together with their appropriate habitat throughout the West. These activities have taken me to several different herd areas in Nevada and California, and even as far off as Texas to defend the wild burros.

In Texas, the wild burros are being shot by the very officials of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. I visited the TP&W headquarters in Austin in early May and met with officials to try to dispel the negative, anti-burro policy through pointing out the burros' evolutionary roots in North America and their ecological contributions, as well as historical and cultural value. This I did together with Ms. Marjorie Farabee, director of the Todd Mission Donkey Sanctuary. Earlier in February 20-26, 2011, I was flown to west Texas and met with another burro advocate from SE California, Gerry Mulryan of Mojave, to the Big Bend area of SW Texas. Here Marjorie Farabee and later Ray Fields and Curtis Swafford (? Sp) a retired biology teacher and naturalist who lives in the Big Bend region, joined us. Together we scouted out wild burros, noting their locations, and inspected a site where 71 had recently been shot by officials! It was a real ambush from cliffs and shows how thoughtless and cruel these people are. The burros were doing no harm to the ecosystem, but rather enhancing it. I am working with these and other concerned people to get official protection of the wild horses in the Big Bend ranch State Park and elsewhere in Texas. On my return trip in early May, Ms. Farabee also met with several Texas state legislators or their aids to try to get the ball rolling for official and legal recognition of these wise and desert-adapted animals, who have done so much for man but now deserve to be free. I will give a talk on wild burros at a rally in Washington on September 25, 2011. Later I will give a talk at the International Equine Conference on Weds. 28th September, 2011, in Arlington, VA, part of a three-day conference from 26th to 28th of Sept., that I will be attending with support from the Todd Mission Sanctuary.

Battle Mountain Field Trip: In February, I made a trip to Tonopah with Meet America program host Lorna Moffat and we met with BLM officials in Tonopah. Later we toured several wh/b herd management areas and took notes. This week's trip permitted us to give knowledgeable input into the Resource Management Plan revision that is now taking place. The wild horses and burros need to be reinstated and are being largely eliminated in this vast area. Lorna took some film footage that she used in a program that was aired.

Litigation: I have been a major plaintiff in two suits, one aimed at stopping the Triple B Complex helicopter roundups in eastern Nevada. I made a field trip and inspected the four legal areas of wild horses here and did a report which became part of my official declaration to Nevada federal judge Howard D. McKibben. Later his ruling declining on our request for TRO and for rescinding this drastic herd reduction was appealed to the 9th District Court, but the latter has so far failed us as well. I continue to work closely with lawyer Rachel Fazio on this case. The roundup has now been stopped due to a suit proving humane abuses during the roundups; and it is hoped that the few wild horses that remain in this 1.3 million acre domain will now be left alone, though I hear BLM wants to gather the rest as soon as it can, perhaps early next year. I continue to propose Reserve Design as a solution, but this will require cancellation of livestock in many of the areas.

I continue to write articles and give official inputs orally and in written form concerning many areas through the U.S. where grossly unfair plans by the BLM and USFS are being offered. Rarely do these officials seem to listen, but the opposition is mounting and I believe we are reaching a turning point.

My new Book: The Wild Horse Conspiracy, I am very pleased to report, is about to be published. I am working on the final editing now. This really gets the message out, and I believe it will make a great difference and help turn things around for the wild horses. I will let you know just as soon as this photo-illustrated, thorough-going expose is out. We could plan a book promotion with talk, pictures and signing.

I must share that I also received support to attend the International Wildlife Film Festival in Missoula, Montana, right after my visit to Texas. This occurred during the second week of May, 2011. Here I helped filmmaker Katia Louise promote her film *Saving America's Horses: A Nation Betrayed*. – a fine film exposing abused horses both wild and domestic, in which I appear and speak in connection with the wild horses. At this film festival – one of the best of its kind – I also moderated a panel discussion on wild horses and Michael Blake, and filmmakers James Kleinert and Katia Louise and several other fine representative of wild horses on the panel. We had a vigorous discussion, since the numerous audience contained some real wh/b detractors, including a biologist working against the horses. Many in the audience had their views changed positively for the wild horses, including filmmakers.

I have recently been to the Spring Mountain in S. Nevada to help the American Wild Horse Advocates guide a BBC TV crew to film the wild horses. We advocates truly changed some of the filmers' views of them, countering some of the brainwashing by the established interests. I was also able to meet and converse with Monty Roberts during the

last day of filming. I am working with these advocates in defense of the wild horses and burros here and had several months earlier done a flight and report for them on this sparse population of both wild horses and burros.

I also flew around the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge for this same group and did another report for them. This included inspecting the northern area of the Calico Complex and High Rock Complex. I even flew over the area where Freedom was captured then leaped free of his corral, as is documented on a YouTube and elsewhere. Very few wild horses were spotted during this flight, including in some of their customary areas.

On January 4, 2011, I was at the Horse Summit and heard Susan Wallis, horse slaughter and eating proponent speak as well as Robert Abbey, head of BLM, and Larry Johnston. On January 5th, 2011, I went with Lornal Moffat and Brian Rosen of Monterey, CA, to attend a wild horse helicopter roundup in the Eagle Complex wild horse area (near Pioche) on BLM land. It was 12 below zero at dawn and scarcely arose above 12 degrees F that day. The horses were frosting their lungs and generating huge amounts of steam after being run. Lorna and Brian filmed this, as well as I, and a Meet America TV program was done for public access stations along the West Coast especially California, also Carson City. By the way, I did three public access TV shows, including on April 8, 2011, for *Nevada Trials* program with host Michael Smith late during the year. One was on mountain tapirs and two on wild horses and burros. He said these were well received especially in S. Lake Tahoe where they air. On June 3rd, 2011, I did a tour of the Broken Arrow wild horse holding facility and was disturbed by how it was expanding to include many more wrongfully freedom-deprived wild horses. They seemed so morose and disheartened in spite of having plenty to eat and drink. This is a very suspicious set up on private land, concerning which I reveal much in my new book.

Recently I gave input to the BLM on the proposal of the S. Nevada Water Authority highlighting what this “Las Vegas Water Grab” would do to the wild horses and burros – and their great value when remaining free. This was at the Sparks, NV, High School.

During the second week of March, 2011, I was flown to Phoenix, AZ, where I participated in a rally for wild horses and burros and gave testimony before the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board protesting the outrageous BLM/USFS “plan” for the practical elimination of our nation’s last wild horses/burros. My testimony was published by *Horseback Magazine* as well as posted on a YouTube by Elyse Gardner, the Humane Observer.

Several articles/interviews of mine have been published, mainly on Internet websites or blogspots and concerning the plight of the Wild Horses, the most recent is my protest against Modoc National Forest’s Devil’s Garden wh territory plan, a true prescription for their demise. Google “Stablewoman” and my name and wild horses. Several of these articles are Xeroxed and accompany this report. I have been interviewed on KFRG for over an hour on wh/b’s which reaches millions in s. California, and was part of a rally against SB 329 to deny water to wh/b’s in Nevada, in which I was interviewed by Ch. 2. The *True Cowboy Magazine* also did an interview of me that was published.

My activities are too many and detailed to describe them all. Suffice it to say I remain very busy & am always improving. I think we are starting to make a breakthrough, & I greatly look forward to promoting the message of my new book in the coming year.

I close this report with a brief description of my month spent in Finland last October, 2010, as guest of a Finish family. This was a delightful and rewarding experience, and I arrived there for the Autumn colors in late Sept. I was in several places, but most enjoyed staying in the log home by a large lake in the east central part of Finland. Kerma Yarve was the name of the lake near the town of Heineversii. I also got to know and ride the Finn horses. I was able to finely revise my wild horse book & take some beautiful walks as well as play the piano & compose some melodies. During my stay, I gave several talks on wild horses/burros and on mountain tapirs at schools and to private groups. I also met and talked with a director of the Natural History Museum in Tampere. My last talk at the University of Jyvaskyla's Biology Department was well attended. Here it is possible I could finally get my Ph.D.; and they are reviewing my published works now. When I send them my new wild horse book, I feel sure they will grant me my long anticipated doctorate! Also professors and students in the Biology Department are interested in collaborating with me on mountain tapir projects. I am especially grateful to artist Marjatta Heinonen who invited me to come to Finland and is a wild horse activist as well as to the rest of her family and the many friends I made. It is a hauntingly beautiful land, indeed. I am also grateful to the American Airlines Advantage Miles program and to my dear mother Alice for these miles that I inherited that made this trip possible.

Tally of Expenses and Contributions for Andean Tapir Fund, Year: July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Source/Purpose</u>
7/22/10		25.85	Office, natural gas expense
7/28/10		60.75	“ Utilities
7/29/10		68.38	Office necessities
8/3/10	200.00		Shirley Oster; Lightning/Diane wh rescue fr. BLM
8/5/10	1,560.73		various contributors/ Lightning/Diane wh rescue
8/6/10		3,000.00	Partial cost of metal corral for Lightning/Diane
8/19/10	200.00		Carla Bowers/ Lightning/Diane rescue
“	25.00		Jim Manning “
8/20/10		500.00	Wire to N. Peru Project, A. Zegarra.
“		20.00	Wells Fargo Wire charge
9/3/10		497.91	Various ATF operating expenses, office
9/20/10	241.70		Horse Power/ Trip to Ely to testify Nat Res C.
10/21/10		117.28	ATF operating expenses, various, Post Office
11/1/10	200.00		WF AGD Trust/ ATF operating expenses
11/12/10		100.00	Install pymt. Nikon D70 with zoom
“	150.00		Craig Downer/ ATF, camera
11/20/10		42.81	ATF travel expenses
“	26.64		Craig Downer/ from sale of 2 wh bks.

12/9/10	50.00		Mary Lee Steffensen/ for N. Peru project
"		25.00	ATF annual fee to State of Nevada
12/13/10	100.00		Nick Illia / N. Peru project, mtn tapir sanct.
"	48.60		various Hippies for Horses/ Ely humane trip
"	38.82		"
12/21/10		300.00	Wire to N. Peru, A. Zeg., mtn tapir sanct. etc.
"		20.00	W.F. Wire fee.
12/23/10	1,619.57		Horse Power/ S. NV investigation, Spring Range
"		64.08	S. NV project expenses.
12/27/10		62.70	ATF office utilities
"		96.91	" , natural gas heating
1/2/11		224.20	S. NV gas travel expenses, Am. Ex.
"		278.43	Gas, travel, lodge. S. Nevada project
"	33.93		Joel Westhead. Wild horse projects, bought 2 bks
1/10/11	30.00		Marilyn Dousharm. ATF, N. Peru Project.
1/26/11		217.60	WH & Mt. Tap. Projects,
"		236.07	Travel, gas, meals, expense, S. NV meet/Eagle
2/8/11	125.00		C. Downer/ N. Peru Project
2/19/11		245.63	Battle Mtn trip to give input on RMP scooping
3/1/11		72.03	"
"	330.79		The Cloud Foundation/ Battle Mtn trip
"	250.00		Ria Katz/ both WH & Mtn. Tapir projects
3/2/11		10.95	Postage for Cloud Forest book w/ my article
"		400.00	N. Peru Proj, Mtn tapir sanct. To A. Zeg. Wire
"		20.00	Wells Fargo wire fee
3/3/11	40.00		Sam/ ATF gen. exp.
"	100.00		Marjorie Farabee/ recoup exp Texas burro trip
"	75.44		Karen Luce/ "
3/20/11	135.62		Hippies for Horses/ Ely wh trip, deliv petition
4/1/11		39.47	Am. Ex. Travel, gas to Ely "
"	154.64		Hippies for Horses/ Ely wh humane protest
4/11/11	90.00		"
4/17/11		32.65	Cell Phone monthly fee for ATF exp.
4/25/11		587.40	Airfare to Phoenix for rally and wh/b adv bd
"		120.93	Trip to Ely wh cruelty charge, gas, hotel.
5/15/11		278.71	ATF activities expenses, including travel
5/20/11	50.00		Lorna Moffat/ Battle Mtn wh trip RMP
6/7/11	400.00		Am. W.H. Prot. Campaign/ Triple B suit
6/7/11		500.00	N. Peru Proj, m. tap. Sanct. Wire to A. Zeg.
"		30.00	Wells Fargo wire fee
6/14/11		40.36	ATF general expense, post office, etc.
"	30.00		Gloria Wilkins/ N. Peru Project.
6/15/11	200.00		Nick Illia/ W.H. Triple B Suit
6/20/11	3,553.00		Horse Power/ Wild horse incl. Triple B suit
6/21/11	1,000.00		Lorna Moffat/ Triple B suit, NV lawyer fee
6/22/11		128.00	Gas for Ely trip to Triple B investigation

“		215.11	Am. Ex. Gas for Triple B trip transportation
“		670.20	ATF gen expense, repair of vehicle, gas.
6/22/11		44.21	ATF gen exp., nat. gas bill
6/28/11		285.15	Triple B suit, investigation, new tire
“	50.00		Kathryn Thomas ATF projects
“		1,500.00	Triple B Suit, fee to Nevada lawyer
“		80.73	ATF office exp. Including internet, telephon
6/30/11	200.00		Linda Lee/ Triple B suit, field investigation
<u>Totals:</u>	<u>\$11,309.48</u>	<u>\$11,259.50</u>	<u>Balance in ATF W.F. Acct: \$49.98</u>
<u>In Kind Contrib. of home office & vehicles, most utilities: \$8,000. Lighthawk flights for surveillance of herd areas: \$3,000</u>			

Grand Total: \$22,259.50 includes \$11,000 in kind donations.