

ANDEAN TAPIR FUND (ATF) 22nd ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 (JULY) TO 2018 (JUNE)

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For ATF Secretary; ATF Board Member Catharine (Kay) Sanders, Treasurer & President & others.

Date: July 17, 2018 A.D.

Please note: The annual ATF board meeting was held on June 16, 2018 in Reno.

Summary of Activities:

As I expressed during our annual meeting on Saturday, June 16, 2018, the Andean Tapir Fund and I have been very busy throughout the past year. We have engaged on many fronts and been instrumental in enlightening many people, including government officials, students, teachers, and senators and representatives and their staffs.

The remainder of the FY 2017-2018 from June 16 to June 30 was a striking success in terms of planting some very worth-while positive seeds of knowledge & incentivitation to help the wild horses & wild burros of America. I was accompanied by fellow ecologist. We realized some sincere & friendly meetings in which we were able to successfully defend the wild horses & wild burros by effectively countering the negative disinformation against them that is put out by their enemies, particularly the public lands livestock (especially cattle & sheep) rancher permittees. I am enclosing with this report our principal handouts. We were also able to meet with the national lead officials for the Wild Horse & Burro Program both for the BLM – newly appointed Bruce Rittenhouse, who listened respectfully and asked intelligent questions, as well as the U.S. Forest Service lead, Allen Rowley. Highlighted in our conversations were the positive contributions which the wild horses & burros make to many ecosystems, including soil building, plant seed dispersal & germination, and – very important today – catastrophic wildfire prevention, or mitigation. Given the increase in temperatures, abundant dry vegetation later in the year's drier seasons, & the alarmingly increasing public lands wildfires, the latter was received with keen interest. This is a cue to us wild horse defenders that we must insist that wild horses & burros be restored in the many vacant habitats throughout the West & elsewhere where they can save literally millions of acres of grass, or bush, or forested lands from being severely burned. This fact is a proven one, as Captain Bill Simpson & his wife Laura have proven on their ca. 1,000-acre place in northern California bordering on Oregon. I have collaborated with this forthright captain in urging authorities to return/establish the wild horses & burros now in holding to many places where they can be of great value in this fire-prevention, as in many other ways. In his articles, Simpson refers to his proposal as the Wild Horse Fire Brigade. (See enclosed articles & those posted on www.thewildhorseconspiracy.org.)

We also met with a professional lobbyist Dave Wenhold, whom wild horse advocate Carol Ross of Arkansas, had arranged for us to meet. (I have been a guest on her son's radio program a few times this past year, mainly defending the wild horses, but also educating people about the endangered mountain tapir. It is called Aggressive Talk Radio, and I have been quite outspoken on this.) Anyway, Mr. Wenhold gave Ms. Potter and me some excellent pointers concerning how to effect positive change in our

nation's capitol. He is interested in working with us in helping restore the wild horses and burros to their rightful land & resources. We definitely plan on working further with this sharp & politically astute man.

Here is a list of the House Representatives whose offices we visited and where we had productive meetings: Rodney Davis of Illinois, aides Jimmy Ballard & David Ross; Raul Grijalva of Arizona, aide Brandon Bragato (who seemed especially supportive, as Grijalva has been the main defender of wild horses in the House). A list of the Senator offices were: Tammy Duckworth of Illinois & aide Eric Goode (we were able to dispel much of the misinformation he had been fed about the wild horses and he took copious notes); Dean Heller of Nevada & aide Andrew Williams (we gave them much information including a copy of my book *The Wild Horse Conspiracy* & the Senator wanted to attend our meeting, but was prevented by a crucial vote in the Senate); Catherine Cortez-Masto of Nevada & aides Sean Lokken & Kyle J. Chapman; Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont (we left an information packet for an aide); Bernard Sanders of Vermont & aide Ethan D. Hinch who listened with keen interest & seemed very supportive for reform; Dianne Feinstein of California & aide Tomas Delgado and who was very interested in helping and urged our writing up a new reform bill (he asked for the petition by email); Tom Udall of New Mexico & aide Lisa Van Theesche, who was very interested & asked germane questions & informed us of useful facts; Joe Manchin III of West Virginia & aide Elliot Howard, who also seemed very interested and took copious notes; Marie Cantwell of Washington state & aide Megan C. Thompson, who also was interested; Jeff Merkeley of Oregon & aide Lucas Smith, who was quite interested in my Oregon report; and finally the office of Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, whose staff were very interested in the petition. All of these received the petition mostly on a CD but a few were suspicious of malware or virus so will get it by email or calling up the link themselves. The petition we had printed out and organized by state by the Move On organization itself and at no charge. I picked it up in Columbia, Maryland as a heavy hard copy, but well done. It contains many heartening comments showing just how clearly people perceive the gross injustice that is being done both to the wild horse and burros and to the General Public who in their great majority support them and want them to be fairly treated on the public lands. The petition can be accessed online and you can read all the names, addresses, and stirring comments at <https://petitions.moveon.org/sign/stop-the-excessive-roundups> or you can peruse ATF's hard copy.

We also met a number of other people interested in helping the wild horses, including a lady from Delaware, who invited us to dinner and had some excellent ideas on how to help the wild horses and burros. She stressed the spiritual and moral aspects of this ongoing and crucial fight for justice for the wild horses and burros IN THE WILD, i.e. for their just and legal and ecologically sound portion of the public lands. She highly recommends we read the following books: Andrew Harvey, 2009. *The Hope: A Guide to Sacred Activism*. Hay House, Inc., Carlsbad, CA, etc.; & Linda Tucker, 2010, *Mystery of the White Lions: Children of the Sun God*. Hay House, Inc. Fleetwood points to such great people as St. Francis of Assisi; Mahatma Gandhi; and Mother Theresa, as successful examples of this Sacred Activism for effecting much needed changes in our society and in our world, including in our treatment of animals and the world of nature. The lady invited us to dinner at a fine restaurant overlooking the ocean in Delaware, and this included my landlord who was letting me stay in his guest room. It was certainly one of the most meaningful and pleasant highlights of our trip to visit with this fine lady and in such agreeable surroundings. Another keenly interested lady we met was with Student Veterans of America and is still a teen ager, though a sharper and more well informed person I did not meet in all of Washington. She is from Minneapolis, Minnesota, and lobbies for impaired veterans but displayed a

keen interest in helping the wild horses. We spoke to her of the great healing ability of wild horses both of ecosystems and of people such as returning wounded or traumatized veterans. She had an outgoing personality and herself is a survivor of cancer. She was a tall lanky young lady with a pale complexion, dark hair, and a pleasing, friendly expression that conveyed genuine interest. She is now a Face Book friend of mine.

Both my fellow ecologist & I felt we had accomplished something significant in Washington, D.C., that augurs well for the wild horses & burros of America, even the whole world. We dispelled many of the destructive myths that the wild equid enemies have for years been trying to perpetrate by exposing these civic-minded people to the greater truth concerning these splendid animals & their rightful land & freedom.

Thursday, June 28th, was our last day in D.C. We began with a meeting with Mr. Allen Rowley, the US Forest Service head of the wild horse and burro program, as we were informed. We were able to explain our grievances & present a petition as well as my more recent booklet, the Reserve Design proposal, charts & graphs disproving the “overpopulation” claim concerning the wild horses and burros, and many other materials that exposed the inimical attitudes & policies of both USFS-USDA & BLM-USDI. Mr. Rowley seemed to register what we had to say but with a turgid silence, that was consistent with his agency’s history of anti-wild-horse-&-burro policies & actions. I gave him my 97-page Oregon wild horse report & called his particular attention to the section on the Big Summit Wild Horse Herd and Territory in the Ochoco National Forest near Prineville. As with the four BLM HMAs also treated in this report, it reveals a history as well as an actuality of gross injustice toward the wild horses. Two days earlier we had met with BLM’s Bruce Rittenhouse and presented many of the same points to him and gave the same documents including the Oregon report. We both felt that he listened much more attentively and showed more respect, taking more seriously what we had to say. He also presented us with the BLM’s recent proposal to Congress for the wild horse and burro program and a handout, but admitted this would probably not be to our liking – and it is certainly not, for it betrays the core intent of the WFHBA! I am confident, however, that we the General Public can stop such a grievous violation of such an important law if we only stand up and do what we must to prevent this.

By mid-afternoon we had to return the rental car at the Dulles airport and catch our plane to Indianapolis (my flight here was covered by Jackie and her husband). This went well and that evening I found myself peacefully slumbering in an old historic house whose core was originally built in 1833 out in the country from Champaign-Urbana. The next day, Friday the 29th, was a day of rest but I was delighted to meet the handsome paint horse Stanley of the Potter-Henson’s. He was quite friendly and enjoyed a water hose bath from Jackie, next to a giant cantilever old red barn. I also got to meet some other unique horses here, most of whom had been rescued from dire circumstances and were ridden.

I was also given a midday tour of the Allerton State Park. This park has some remarkable statues as well as pleasant hardwood forests and slow-moving rivers. It is a beautiful place of which the local residents are justifiably proud. It is also an island of hope in an area where much of the land is industrially farmed for maximum yield of corn and soy, much of which is GMO, or genetically modified. Hiking & equestrian trails weave throughout this large park, but we decided not to take a hike due to the very high temperature over 100 degrees F. We observed & photographed some amazing trees, flowering bushes & forbs, spritely birds & white-tailed deer as well as squirrels. Also some extraordinary “objets d’art”

were tastefully placed at various places. Later in the evening, Jackie's husband joined us for a wonderful Hindu meal where I enjoyed a spicy eggplant, & we together shared a "Winged Horse" beer from India.

Saturday, June 30th, 2018 – the big day! This was the day we had long awaited & planned for, dating back to November, 2016, when my hosts and supporters thought it would be a good idea for me to speak at the University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana & be sponsored by the Sierra Club Prairie Group & some of the local equestrian organizations. The event took place from 6 to 8:30 PM with set up beginning at 4:30 PM and was in the old Tudor-style Channing-Murphy Hall, which looked like a church inside with amazing beams & woodwork & a raised pulpit. Also there was a giant screen for the projection of my wild horse & burro Power Point presentation. Many people came, young & old, students & professors, townsfolk & country folk, wild horse advocates & those interested in the nature & welfare of all horses, wild or domestic. Some showed up, such as a young black family, who were just interested in learning more & many came away inspired & wanting to help. Also present was a prominent radio host who is interested in having some of us wild horse advocates on his show, including me when I am next in the area. All received my free handouts including the Reserve Design proposal, folding triptych on how to locate and visit the wild horse/burro herds and their legal areas and how to become involved with their protection. Many got my book *The Wild Horse Conspiracy*, as well as the 60-page, color-illustrated small book: *America's Wild Horses and Burros Must Make a Comeback!* Several got my musical CD *Wild Horse Rhapsody*. What I appreciated most about the event was the keen interest and concern that was displayed by those who came, including a professor who invited Jackie, her husband, and I to come see his fantastic audio-video films in a 3D theater on the campus the next morning, Sunday. These included such awesome topics as the nature of our star the Sun and what sun spots are, the nature of Venus – which contained a very stark warning about Global Warming, the microscopic reproduction and growth of bacteria, the story of Hurricane Katrina, and other topics. These were in color and based on many years of data collection by eminent scientists. All three of us were very grateful for this rare opportunity. I suggested Dr. Stuart try to do such a 3-D film about Global Warming to convince more people, especially officials, of the urgent need to stop polluting the atmosphere, destroying the forests, and other natural ecosystems, etc. During my Power Point, I had also highlighted the role of the wild horses & burros in preventing catastrophic wildfires, now much on the increase due to Global Warming/Climate Change, as well as how these ancient presences complement ruminant herbivores, building healthy soils, cause successful dispersal and germination of a great variety of plant species, and, in general, enhance the ecosystems in which they belong & to which they should be restored. Stuart seemed interested in helping with the wild horse cause; and I invited him and his wife to be my guest and come to Nevada to observe the wild horses. He said he would like to, but would also like to visit some of the areas where viewing the starry skies at night was most clear. I told him that the area around Tonopah in southern central Nevada would be an ideal place & where there still remain some wild horses & burros, though much whittled down from earlier times.

So our morning of Sunday, the 1st of July, was a great one. In the afternoon, my hosts drove me on to the Hall family country home in Decatur, Illinois, which is located a few hours to the west. Here we were graciously served lunch by my host there. We enjoyed seeing their two adopted wild burros: Lillah & Lilly, originally from the hot Nevada deserts. They were in good moods & came to greet us. After the Potters returned, I enjoyed a refreshing swim in the Hill's pool as well as the view over their pasture and hardwood forest, where before in the Fall of 2016, I had taken some nice autumn pictures. I had made several prints of these, which I gifted to the family.

Some of those who came to my presentation want to form a wild horse & burro activist group. This includes some knowledgeable biologists & ecologists who are needed to counter the deliberate & ignorant disinformation campaign put out on a continual basis by the wild horses/burros chief & often well-heeled enemies, chiefly the livestock interests, but also including the big game hunter interests, and others, including mining & energy extraction companies. Their object seems to be to nearly completely exploit & industrialize our public lands.

Finally I would like to state that it was a real honor and privilege to have delivered my inspired speech with its very important message for our times at this dignified & national historical site: the Channing Murphy Hall, in part made famous by the wonderful lectures that were given here by the world class poet, philosopher, and mystic from India: Rabindranath Tagore between 1912 & 1916. He was an early inspiration in my present life and still so remains. There is a celebration of his life and works each September here in this same hall and perhaps I could return there and give my same inspired speech.

The title of my speech is “The World’s Endangered Species Present a Crisis of Conscience for Humanity” and, I believe, Rabindranath would have been – perhaps is! – pleased with it, as it is consistent with the Reverence for Life and more profound concepts concerning the great Family of All Life that includes all members of all species – each necessary in its own special way! So please let me know of any opportunities to give both my speech & Power Point of the wild ones, and don’t forget that I also have a program about the endangered Mountain, or Andean Tapir, and its biodiverse & beautiful Andean forest and paramo habitat.

Also let me know if you know of anyone flying to Peru who would be willing to take a small laptop computer there for my colleague Alejandro Zegarra-Pezo, who – in spite of the poisoning attempt on his and his son’s life -- continues to fight the good fight with renewed enthusiasm both for the endangered Mountain/Andean Tapir & for the wild burros, both of which play an indispensable role in their respective ecosystems, i.e. moist Andean including cloud forest & paramo moorland for the tapir & more arid carob-tree-associated woodlands, mountains & valleys for the wild burros. Also, any help you can interest for the Mountain Tapir or Wild Horse & Burro Reserve Design projects as donations to the tax-deductible Andean Tapir Fund/Wild Horse & Burro Fund on the link: www.gofundme.com/mstngreservedesign would be greatly appreciated.

My plans for this current FY 2018-2019 are to follow through with the Reserve Design investigation as well as to continue to follow through with the mountain tapir & wild burro projects in northern Peru. But much more support is needed.

I am also pleased to announce that my presentation at the professional Perissodactyla Conservation Symposium to take place in February 2019 in Florida has been accepted. I have just submitted my abstract along with CV & a recent photo. I am planning on doing another Power Point. The subject of my presentation will be the positive contributions all three families in the mammalian Order Perissodactyla make to their respective habitat, whether members of the Tapir, Horse, or Rhinoceros families. I consider it a great honor and intend that my presentation will awaken increased resolve to protect & restore the beleaguered Perissodactyls who remain in the world. Of the 16 extant species, 13 are endangered with extinction, which is to say, nearly all of them whether horse, tapir, or rhino. It would be such a shame not to act intelligently – with heroism to save these ancient & also quite valuable healing presences on our shared home – our beautiful living planet Earth. None of this should

be taken for granted. And we must protect and restore both them and their appropriate habitats, not merely put them in artificial confines!

I also appeared on several radio programs this past year, including American Matters & Mustang Matters out of Reno, Wild Horse & Burro Radio, Environmental News Radio (both L.A.), and Aggressive Talk Radio (Arkansas). These programs mainly focused on helping the wild horses/burros, but also addressed the endangered mountain tapir of the northern Andes. One must have faith that the seeds one sows shall find their fertile grounds in the minds and hearts and wills of those who truly listen to what one has of truth to convey.

Enclosed with this report are some of the publications I wrote or which cite our organization. I am now going to highlight in month-by-month outline form some of Andean Tapir Fund's work throughout the year, as I did orally during our annual meeting on Saturday, June 16, 2018. Thanks to you both respectfully listening and taking an interest in these what I believe to be very important endeavors.

July 2017: First week & half: South Lake Tahoe Arts & Crafts fair, sold books, CDs, photos, cards, conversed with people. 7/5: Participate in rally for wild horses in San Francisco with Protect Mustangs in front of Senator Dianne Feinstein's office. Covered by ABC Ch. 7 News. Along with Anne Novak of Protect Mustangs. Continue to coordinate activities with A. Zegarra in N. Peru. 7/22: Help Dimond Ranch Wild Horse Rescue. 7/23: Compose speech: The World's Endangered Species ... to be delivered at Endangered Species Rally at Sacramento Capitol grounds on 8/12 & which ATF graciously attended along with another very gracious lady, also from Cohasset. They set up & manned a beautiful table they had artfully decorated including with Helen's paintings & stuffed animals. 7/27 Help American Wild Horse Institute with the Wyoming 14 wild horse rescue.

August 2017: 8/4-6: Participate in Ft. McDermitt, Nevada reservation annual story telling event. Deliver Endangered Species speech for 1st time. Also share poems I wrote about wild horses, freedom, etc. Humboldt Star newspaper reporters present. Several TWHC books sold, booklets shared, musical CDs, info. On Reserve Design, dispelling anti wild horse myths information, etc. Many interested in helping. 8/12: Deliver End. Sp. Speech in Sacramento (see above. Reception at J Street wine shop afterwards. Organizer was Nanette Wheeler of Sacramento, especially interested in helping elephants. 8/13: Assist with census & habitat reconnoiter with Light Hawk flight. Many photos taken. Report issued. Jessica & daughter Carissa also fly along with pilot out of Truckee Airport. 8/21 Input to BLM on Triple B/Antelope wild horse gather Env. Assess. Later in month, went to N. Pine Nut Mtn. to observe a band of wild horses & how they reacted to the solar eclipse. Definitely it caused a stir in them, especially the stallion, whose duty is to protect his band. I believe this is mainly out of his true caring for them.

September 2017: 9/8: Film interview on wild horses for Protect Mustangs with Anne Novak – thousands have viewed. 9/17: Begin Power Prayer for wild horses/burros globally org. by Mary Anne Fleetwood of Rehoboth, Delaware. 9/20: Guest on Aggressive Talk Radio re: wild horses. 9/24: Rally for wild horses in Carson City, sold 2 books. 9/26: Prepare to leave for Steens Mountain & Kiger Mustang HMAs in Oregon.
October 2017: 10/7: Leave for Oregon to do Ecol. Eval. & Res. Des. Project. Arrive at S. Steens Nat. Recr. Area campground, South Loop Road. Camp out 9th through 12th here and in Kiger Mustang HMA. In both places I do professional ecological evaluation transects and observe & photograph the wild horses. Discover & evaluate many disturbance factors, especially livestock, off-highway-vehicles, hunters, etc. Observe how wild horses being blamed for what these others are doing. See accompanying Oregon rpt.

9/16: Call Senate Approp. Committee to prevent sale to slaughter of wild horses and burros. Thousands called in. 9/17: My article criticizing America's wild horse & burro program published world-wide in Horsetalk-New Zealand (which see). Big response, mostly favorable. 10/23-26: Analyze Oregon Wild Horse field data to begin composing report. 9/29: Share Wyoming 14 wild horse rescue appeal.

November 2017: IUCN SSC Tapir Specialist Group international Tapir Symposium, Houston, Texas. Unable to find support to attend. Every 3 years this takes place. This was first time in USA. Took place 13th to 18th. I could have given a talk about Peru project, etc. Alerts put out on website posted to Alert List. 11/30: Interview with Cliff Williams of American Horse Council, Washington, D.C. (202)737-7324. Defended wild horses against traditional enemies. Also during month checked out Univ. Nevada-Reno library books & took advantage of the librarian research lady to aid me in Oregon report. Many old as well as newer articles, photos, reports viewed. 11/4: 10,701 signers on Stop the Excessive Roundups Move On petition, which Jackie and I were to deliver in June 2018. 11/14-19: Travel south from San Francisco after dental apt. to Malibu to prepare and give my World's Endangered Species speech and wild horse/burro PowerPoint for I Stand With My Pack (ISWMP) at a lovely beach home on Malibu beach. Host Cait Larratt-Smith & son Tyler were very helpful. Speech well received, a number of books sold, information shared. 11/19 evening of event, lasted 3 to 6:30 PM. Many valuable contacts including President Alexandra Schiffer, the young lady who heads the organization. 11/22-29: After a few days with Cait & Tyler, I travelled to the Wild For Life Foundation wild horse/burro rescue in Ramona, CA to help them with their horses and to procure needed support. Spent Thanksgiving with family of Katia & Mario including Katia's mother Gloria and WFLF board member Jaye. Sprained ankle after helping with chores ca 2 pm on Friday 24th and was bedridden 25 & 26 being attended by Mario & Katia, who were professionals when it comes to healing sprained ankles, having dealt with same as professional dancers and gymnasts earlier in their careers. Finally able to travel back to Nevada on 11/27, stopping at Sharon & Michael Latimer modern Del Webb home in Hemet, CA. Shared my World's End. Spp. Speech with them and gifted my musical CD and information.

December 2017: 12/2-6: Continue working on Oregon wild horse report. 12/7: Sent Oregon report for review to other ecologist of Colorado. 12/8: Attend No Bear Hunt Nevada meeting in Reno, able to talk about wild horses and threats to them and their legal habitats. 12/11: My editorial in defense of Virginia Range wild horses published in Reno Gazette Journal. 12/12: Testified before Nevada Department of Agriculture board to stop them from abandoning protections by state of these horses by means of relinquishing them to a non-profit organization. Packed hearing! 12/15: Spoke with Ralph Thomas of Carson City Field Office BLM re: restoring wild horses to Horse Mountain HMA south of Fallon. A couple years ago I submitted a detailed written proposal to set up a cooperative agreement with the Illia Family Corp. to allow restoration of these wild horses, because both pure and abundant water springs and vegetation would be made available to these wild horses on the Illia property, which is fenced on the eastern highway side. 12/5: Did TV program defending wild horses and burros out of Monterey, CA on Meet America program with host Annie Griffin, after earlier dental apt. in S.F. Rest of December, various dates: continue to work on Oregon report and to oversee N. Peru project for mtn. tapir & wild burro protection against the designs of Chinese merchants, receiving detailed reports & photos from Conservationist Alejandro Zegarra. Substance extracted from their leather is called "Egao". Later did ENS article on this and the attempt on Zegarra's life (which see enclosed).

January 2018: 1/1: Work on Oregon wh report. 1/2: Guest on Aggressive Talk Radio defending wh/b's from their enemies in Congress, esp. ranching interests. 1/3-7 Oregon Report. Stay at Sebastopol with friends Jeff & Patti Roth, after dental apt in S.F. 1/13-16: Stay at Los Gatos with Cole family. Sold books, met wh advocates. Visited rescued wh's. Met Dennis McLaren who later helped me shape up my PowerPoint program on wh/b's. Worked with a splendid coppery horse in a ring. Received instruction. 1/18: Call in to give input to Modoc-Washoe Steering Committee meeting (BLM) on behalf of wild horses. 1/24: Work on Oregon report. Participated in Ignite Change conf. call with Center for Biological Diversity. Called in to protest dismantling of Env. Prot. Laws by Trump administration, rescinding of national monument protections. Must be stopped if at all possible! Very destructive and greed driven! Very unwise as concerns the precarious threats to all of life on Earth today being posed by humanity! Time for a change in priorities by humanity, a recognition of our belonging to All Life's Family!

February, 2018: 2/2: Did 2-hour program for wild horses and mtn. tapirs on Meet America program w/ host Annie Griffin in Monterey CA and the public TV studio there. Also went whale watching on a giant Catamaran early in the morning to about midday. Saw over 40 Gray Whales, a few Humpbacks, and a Leather Back Sea Turtle (my spotting, and rare for this time of year). Several thousand have viewed the Meet America program posted on internet websites globally. 2/15: I am featured guest on Nevada Matters Radio Program with host Eddie Floyd, concerning wild horses, mountain tapirs, my life as a Nevadan who returns home but has lived in various countries. Reaches 1,000's worldwide and locally. We had an excellent conversation and my book and booklet were positively promoted. 2/16: Attend Wild For Life Foundation board meeting by phone. Conducted by Katia Louise, president, and producer of Saving America's Horses: A Nation Betrayed, ca. 2 & 1/2 hour film on wild and domestic horses and the urgent need to protect and restore them. I am featured in this film and guided Katia and her husband Mario to film them in the Nevada mountains during a snowstorm. I helped WFLF during these months and was successful in interesting one major donor. 2/16: Give input on Pryor Mtn. wild horses to BLM Billings Montana office. 2/23: Met with Tandy Gooch of Sparks Museum and Historic Center to present my photos, books, & poems for use in an exhibit for months of March & April. I was given a special cabinet to display my wild horse books, poetry book, & musical CD as well as some of my stunning photos. The big event I participated in took place on Sat, Mar. 17th – St. Patrick's Day & was well attended. Some of my poems from Streams of the Soul were nicely displayed. May be invited to give speech there in December, we'll see.

March 2018: Continue to work on Oregon wild horse report. 3/12-13: Meet with wild horse advocate in El Dorado, CA, to go over report. She revised this and gave me some important information to include. 3/17: Big event at Sparks Museum. Donated my 1st book, 1st printing of illustrated Wild Horses: Living Symbols of Freedom, published by Western Printers & Publishers of Sparks, NV in 1977. It had a foreword by the famous Wild Horse Annie. Kay Sanders attended. 3/27: Attended Global Warming film entitled "Saving Snow" at Western Nevada College, Carson City, 6 – 9 PM with panel discussion and eminent speakers. Joined Carson City Climate Lobby organization that lobbies for a tax on carbon pollution and dividends for avoiding such. Have since attended one meeting, offered to give them my speech and show them my Power Point. 3/26: Laptop cleaned out at Geek Squad, Carson City, Defragmented. 3/29: Went to visit Wyoming 14 rescue sanctuary. Paid for tank of gas, and hay and meal for Bernie Roghers, all totaled about \$200 contribution.

April 2018: 1st week: 77 new The Wild Horse Conspiracy books due to arrive but a couple boxes didn't, so I had to complain to publisher. Eventually I received all of them, but a new box of 28 had to be ordered. Seems someone had robbed one box of 28. 4/6: My Oregon wild horse report finally released and shared with major groups. Nearly 10,000 have read. Sent to Oregon BLM, USFS, ranchers, government officials, wild horse advocates & organizations. Also given in June to heads of WH&B programs for BLM & USFS in Washington, DC. Please read and share with those who should see this. Our volunteer website manager, continues to do a good job and has widely shared this to our Alert List members and posted on our website: www.thewildhorseconspiracy.org. By the way I had to pay \$300 to another lady to update and maintain the Andean Tapir Fund website www.andeantapirfund.com. Please check this out and see what you think. My recent ENS article about the assassination attempt on Zegarra in Peru is here and is a real tribute to his lifelong work for saving nature including the Andean tapirs. 4/9: Submitted input to Toiyabe National Forest re: Ruby Mtn Oil & Gas Pipeline that would affect wild horses. 4/14: Again on Meet America by phone this time defending Washington state's wh's. 4/16: Travel to L.A. from Carson Valley arriving 8:30 PM just in time to celebrate my host Dr. Nancy Pearlman's 70th birthday. 4/17: Gave two talks with Power Point presentation on wild horses and burros. In early afternoon to East Los Angeles College and in late afternoon at Los Angeles pre College High School. Both classes listened attentively and asked intelligent questions. Large audiences greater than 100. Some got my booklet and all got my new cards with the buckskin stallion from the northern Pine Nut mtns. Many wrote me letters of appreciation or comment on my talks. Many want to help the wild horses gain back their rights to land, resources to survive, and natural freedom guaranteed in the WFHBA. 4/18: Day of rest & conferring on conservation projects with Dr. Pearlman & her friend Robert Paine, filmer & writer. Both have collaborated for years with me and are politically shrewd and committed to progressive change. Some of my melodies from Wild Horse Rhapsody CD have been used in some of the conservation films Pearlman has made. 4/19: In morning before leaving for Arizona I did a radio interview with Pearlman for the ECONews radio program. This has recently (June) been broadcast throughout southern California. In the afternoon I drove all the way to Blythe, California, and camped where the Blythe Giant Figures, or Intaglios are located several miles north of Blythe. This is Figure 2 in my TWHC book and it was a thrill to view it directly. I slept well in my SUV in this very atmospheric area and took some excellent photos of the giant figures. The one is much more horse-like than puma-like and has been professionally dated to ca. 1,000 years ago. 4/20: Travel on I-5 interstate to Quartzite, Arizona where I arrive in very hot weather: > 105 deg. F. By afternoon. Go to library where I print out BLM descriptions of several wild horse/burro HMAs to visit. First one I visit is the Cibola-Trigo HMA south of Quartzite and north of Yuma. I arrive here midafternoon and pass east to west over rough terrain. I had to get military clearance to pass through, as much of the eastern side is part of the Yuma U.S. Army Proving Grounds. After a few hours of travelling over this rough terrain I finally began to see a few burro tracks within a few miles of the lower Colorado River. In late afternoon I finally found a high rise bank overlooking the river and with some shade trees, mainly Acacias. Put up my tent and slept soundly in spite of loud braying of wild burros during the night. Rather enjoyed this. 4/21-23: Spent observing wild burros & ecosystem in the Cibola-Trigo HMA, which is governed by the Yuma office of the BLM. Saw no wh's, but a few tracks of horses, possibly ridden by people, though unshod. BLM public information signs very deceptive announcing blatantly that 'horses & burros are not native to North America' – which is so wrong! Took picture of this and much else. 100's of pictures taken for report. Did several Ecological Evaluation Transects. Burros appear to be thriving along this part of the river and a few to several miles inland. 4/22: Earth Day. Early on, I visit town of Cibola, then go on to visit the Cibola

Nat. Wldf. Refuge. I am only person present, not even a govt. worker was there. Excellent nature trail, learned a lot for my study taking notes & photos. Drove the loop road through the refuge and took a nature hike. Many birds and mammals in shade, also reptiles & insects. Ca 110 deg. F. Strange there was no Earth Day activity at the refuge. By midafternoon ventured south to the historic Hardy Mine excavation in the Trigo Mtns. Did more Ecol. Eval. Transects. Noted more BLM kiosks with same blatant purveying of false information regarding horses & burros not being native to N. Am, in spite of abundant evidence to contrary (see Ch. I of my book *The Wild Horse Conspiracy*). 4/24: Leave Cibola-Trigo HMA travelling north along Colorado River to near Blythe, then east on Interstate-5 to Quartzite. One way see a dead burro obviously hit by a car & being devoured by turkey vultures. At Quartzite I again visit the library before heading north. I end up taking the historic US Route 66 to Oatman, a quaint historic mining town, which is in the center of the Black Mtn. Wild Burro HMA (BLM, Kingman). Observe burros in this old town & able to meet a few up close & personal. Get some good photos. Notice a nice homestead for sale just north of Oatman overlooking desert. In Kingman, I gas up & place my book TWHC at the 5th Street Bookstore whose lady owner was very glad to have these books paying wholesale for 4 of them. Also visited an excellent museum on both natural and human history told mainly from a Native American's perspective & describing the very hard struggles to survive here in the Mojave Desert. Excellent art depictions of this history. I was informed where to go north of Kingman to observe the wild horses. I arrived at this place just before the sunset to get some breath-taking observations of three Cerbat Mustang wild horses bands. These definitely possessed significant Spanish Colonial mustang heritage. As darkness approached I finally found a promising canyon called Volk Canyon with a road that lead me far up into the eastern flank where I camped peacefully in my SUV. 4/25: Take morning hike high up on Cerbat Mtn. Spot two wild horse bands, mainly dark bays but some roans. Photos w/ telephoto lens. Do more ecological evaluation transects. Many cattle around water sources. These were generally making a real mess of the ecosystem – causing erosion & contaminating water. This is not their fault, but people's! Springs I observed were being sealed off and piped out for homes and gardens, etc, thus depriving wild horses & other wildlife of vital water for survival. A few Mule Deer were also seen. Beaver-tail Cactus displayed very bright purplish-blue colors. Their forms & colors seemed magical to me ... perhaps they were (see photos). Also orangish-red blossoms of Barrel Cactus were beginning to unfold. 4/26: Performed more ecological evaluations & revisited first place where I saw wild horses this morning. Ecological evaluations performed & trailed the band to take some excellent photos of the horses. In afternoon, replenished supplies in Kingman, then headed up west side of Cerbat Mountain to old mining town of Chloride. Here, in late afternoon, I saw the famous murals painted by a Native American artist – very impressive! Gigantic, painted large scale on boulders & with intriguing meanings. Performed ecological evaluations here. Also petroglyphs present, some depicting bighorns. Again, I slept under stars. There was a special peaceful atmosphere here, an innervating type of electricity in the air. Rock formations here seemed specially imbued with this. 4/27: On way back to Chloride, I encountered a six-foot, muscular rattler stretched out across the rocky dirt road lying quite immobile. Went to see if he had been run over. But when I hissed at him ever so slightly he immediately came alive, coiled up, & began rattling his 9 beaded tail. Nine rattles signifies nine years old. I got some dramatic shots of this exquisite, if sinister, reptile. Later at the Chloride store, I was informed that I had encountered the "Mojave Red" & that this is one of the most aggressive & deadly of rattlersnakes in the West. All present said I was "lucky" he didn't take after & bite me. I procured some more maps here & asked the information lady where I could see the wild horses. It was recommended I take a long road just to the north following Highway 93 & leading high into the mountains & that the Windy Point

Campground would be a nice place for me to stay. I did several more ecological evaluations on the way up here. Disturbingly, cattle were ruining a large portion of the habitat & there was no sign of any wild horses on the western side of the Cerbat Range. Later I photographed the stiff, four-strand, barbed wire fence running along the ridgeline & excluding wild horses from this side of their legal area. I also observed giant, open-pit mines around Chloride. Indeed, much of the public lands here were being “chewed up & spit out” by the mining companies; & much toxic waste & many heap leach mounds were evident. Arriving late in the afternoon at Windy Point Campground, I selected one of the windiest but most spectacular sites. This resembled a Native American place of worship – a sort of altar. It had a great wrought-iron picnic table, which BLM workers had just finished installing. There was an outhouse but no running water. And the cost for camping for me was only \$4. In the late afternoon, I took the ridge trail leading to a high pass & scoured the land, taking several photos & performing several ecological evaluations. Though I searched extensively with binoculars, I did not see a single wild horse, but only what appeared to be a few possible wild horse trails further down on the east side.

Saturday, 28th April: Travelling back down to the west to the highway, I again appreciated the significant damage which cattle & fences were doing to the habitat, stopping to take some pictures. I travelled up Highway 93 to NW toward Dolan Springs. The Chloride information lady had told me that at Red Lake, I might see wild horses. I did arrive at its western edge only to see large agricultural fields with severely disturbed soils and severe soil erosion chiefly by wind but also by cloudbursts, & being facilitated by ORVs. There was a giant Dust-Bowl-like funnel extending upwards over 1,000 feet into the air, which I photographed. The scene produced in me a profound sorrow to witness the devastation that my species was causing here while ignoring so many better ways of life that could be realized had people sufficient caring, knowledge, wisdom, and the will to try! After not seeing even a single wild horse, I took the advice of an artist I had met in Dolan Springs, to travel on east several miles to visit the Joshua tree nature trail and protected area in the midst of the densest grove of this tree species in the world. I am glad I did this & my visit there resulted in some splendid observations and photographs, though, again, no wild horses were seen. Large kiosks displayed the fascinating history of this area. Here I resisted the call to travel on NE to the Grand Canyon. Instead in the afternoon, I travelled on through scorching heat toward the Boulder Dam & then on to Las Vegas, Nevada, reaching this gaudy city in the late afternoon. I decided to visit some of my old wild horse contacts here. The one in Las Vegas, photographer and real estate agent, Arlene Gawn had a disconnected number, so I called up my friend in Cold Creek ca. 40 miles NW of Las Vegas. Rhea Little said for me to come right up. There were still some wild horses here, although these were to be all removed by the BLM & USFS within the next couple weeks. This reasons, we felt, were very unfair & trumped up that had much to do with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, which for years has tried to discredit & eliminate the wild horses & burros from the public lands both here & elsewhere in Nevada. In spite of this, I enjoyed a great visit with these faithful wild horse advocates with whom I had collaborated since ca. 2005. Also, it was a delight to hike around here, observing the wild horses, some of whom seemed to foresee the terrible roundup about to come. I also presented my Power Point on wild horses & burros to these wild horse advocates. My presentation seemed keenly appreciated. Names of some of the advocates: Rhea Little & husband Joel, Dr. Greg Clark (1st wave of UC Berkeley graduates in Ecology ... I also took the same degree from this excellent university, but some years later. I was guest at his home); Carmen & Karl Rhoda, among others. ... Though I gave input to the USFS Superintendent to complain about the impending roundup & though the BLM & USFS called a public meeting a few days after my visit, the roundup of the last wild horses here took place ca. one week after I left. Government officials cited lack of forage & drought conditions,

but it was plain to me that their decision involved an elaborate plot involving the fencing out of the wild horses from their rightful habitat, particularly higher up in the Spring Mountains, as well as the fencing off of critical water sources. Their objective is to bolster big game species like mule deer and bighorn sheep largely for wealthy hunters. Many of the residents of Cold Creek are also wealthy but even for those who are not, these residents in their great majority greatly value the wild horses & their preferences should be heeded, not ignored! They wish to have a vigorous herd of wild horses here. Such is intimately tied in with their experienced quality of life! These horses were here in 1971 and it is a shame how they have been eliminated, basically due to BLM/USFS/Nevada Dept. of Wildlife's plotting against them. However, their restoration can happen if the General Public learns to stand up & accrue sufficient power to accomplish this great and life-enhancing goal.

30 April, 2018: I arrive back at Carson Valley after a long drive through the desert. This was a night drive and I stopped at the old town of Goldfield to wander about and reflect upon the old times of the roaring mining camps. By the way, there were two pioneer ore assayers here in the early days, both brothers and whose surname was the same as mine: Downer. After lingering & poking around here for over an hour, I will say that many of the old buildings do seem inhabited by more than rodents & owls.

May 2018: 5/2: Called in to Mustang Matters radio program with Dee to report on the Winnemucca Flats fossil horse find (east of Pyramid Lake, Nevada) from a few decades ago that had been dated to 1,000 years old, then all traces and the record thereof vanished. This is most probably the work of the wild horse enemies, loathe to have the greater truth concerning the horse and its true native status in North America recognized.

5/2-5: Organize my data from Arizona HMAs & herd evaluations. Promote wild horses/burros, mountain tapirs, habitat rescue projects. 5/11: Interviewed on Meet America TV program re: both wild horses & mountain tapirs. 5/13: Met with David McLaren and went over PowerPoint to enhance the presentation for talk at U. Ill. & other upcoming possible venues 5/16: Skype call with Dr. Santurtun of The Donkeys Sanctuary re: n. Peru project to save the burros & possibility of getting more support. 5/19: Met with wild horse advocate Emily Montion in Sparks, NV. She has had some setbacks after being homeless for 15 months, but now has an apartment. She wants to continue helping the wild horses & burros, but needs a laptop, as hers was stolen during her homeless period. She is a very sharp lady & sees right through the disinformation campaign that has for years been aimed at eliminating the wild horses. 5/21-31 Continue to work on perfecting my PowerPoint presentation following McLaren's guidance. Also wrote two articles defending the brumbies (wild horses) of Australia, one of which was published as a comment, the other as a full article (see accompanying publications from Horsetalk-NZ).

June, 2018: 6/1: Sent \$400 to A. Zegarra. Above mentioned articles published in Horsetalk-NZ defending brumbies. Unprecedented law passes in New South Wales giving a considerable degree of protection to the brumbies in this part of Australia, including much of the Great Dividing Range (southern part) including Snowy River country and Kosciuszko National Park -- both I visited in October 2014. I was guest of honor at the Snowy River Equestrian gathering in late October, 2014, & gave a speech to ca. 100 people. (See Andean Tapir Fund annual report for 2014-2015.) I am told my article greatly helped to influence this pro-wild horse vote in NSW.

6/2: Gave official input re: Warm Springs, BLM, Oregon, attempt to conduct cruel experiments involving the sterilization of mares. Though cancelled, BLM is again back trying to make this very cruel & insensitive, as well as unwise option a reality, & ATF is again protesting.

My article defending Peruvian conservationist Alejandro Zegarra after his assassination attempt published in Environmental News Service. He was a victim of a poisoning attempt. (Article encl. w/ report.) I made a plea for support to the Andean Tapir Fund projects there both for the mountain tapir and for the wild burros, as well as to help Zegarra now in this crucial time of his life. Much more support is needed!

6/7: Give my "World's Endangered Species ... " speech & show photo & caption panels of wild horses & burros & their habitats at the Many River Books & Tea store in Sebastopol, CA, from 7:30 to 9 PM. Well received. Had dental apt. earlier in afternoon here in California. Intelligent questions asked. Store owner said my speech was very special. This store carries my TWHC book. I gifted him my Streams of the Soul illustrated poetry book.

6/8-16: Continue to perfect my PowerPoint in collaboration with Dennis McLaren. Phoned all members of Senate Appropriations Committee in order to stop the House bill introduced by Utah Rep. Chris Stewart to have massive sterilization of wild horse & burro herds. So far Senate has not approved this, but reconciliation talks between Senate & House now proceeding. We must keep up the pressure! Rest of month of June involving Washington DC trip & presentation in Illinois already described above.

{END OF ANNUAL FY 2017-2018 ATF REPORT}