

Internal Working Document

ASLM INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 25, 2010
FROM: WO-260, Dean Bolstad (775) 861-6611 and John Neill (775) 475-2222
SUBJECT: Termination of Indian Lakes Facility Tours

I. INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY

It is proposed to conduct three final public tours at the Indian Lakes Facility on May 28th, June 3rd and June 10th. Given approval, a May 27th press release (PR) will announce that there will be no future public tours after June 10th and that the extended time, five hour June tours will be a time for potential adopters to identify horses they would like to adopt through a July Internet Adoption Event. The PR will also announce that younger animals will be shipped to adoption venues across the US from June to August and that older animals will be shipped to long-term holding from July to November.

BLM will continue to host invited visitors such as the Humane Society of the United States, Dr. Carolyn Stull (UC Davis animal welfare expert) and Advisory Board Members who are all scheduled to visit before June 9th. Members of the public who wish to view wild horses will be referred to the Palomino Valley Facility (PVC) that is staffed for public visitation hours 5 ½ days per week. 82 head of Calico Internet Adoption horses have already been moved to PVC for photographing and public viewing.

Rationale - Indian Lakes was never intended to be a public facility and is not staffed to host weekly tours. The high volume of inquiries and negative publicity that follows each tour detracts from priority work. The tours have been costly financially and the resulting widely publicized extreme negative criticisms continue to erode BLM's image. The general public has had ample opportunities to view the Calico Complex wild horses, the Indian Lakes facility, and BLM's operations.

II. BACKGROUND

BLM has hosted public tours since January. About 15 wild horse advocates attend the tours with about five that attend almost every tour. One individual posts weekly reports on a blog that features injured and sick animals, deaths and allegations of improper care. There is no mention that the animals have regained their health and most are doing well. This blog is widely read and each week following the blog post there is a large volume of email and calls that express outrage. Advocates frequently push local media to investigate and report on the alleged poor care of horses at Indian Lakes. On May 19th, a complaint was filed with the local Sheriff's Department that alleged alleged inhumane treatment of an animal and the matter is being investigated. Due to the outrage expressed by individuals that are often irrational and emotional, employees are becoming concerned for their personal safety, are experiencing high levels of stress and concerned that this negative publicity will motivate terrorism against our facilities similar to the Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front arson fires that occurred in the late 1990's.

III. POSITION of INTERESTED PARTIES

Nevada BLM supports terminating the tours given Headquarters approval. Extreme objection from Elyse Gardner and the Cloud Foundation will occur and they will organize a wave of emails and phone calls to BLM management officials and Congressmen.