

1 GORDON M. COWAN, Esq.  
SBN# 1781  
2 Law Office of Gordon M. Cowan  
P.O. Box 17952  
3 Reno, Nevada 89521  
Telephone (775) 786-6111

4  
5 Attorney for Plaintiff LAURA LEIGH

6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

7 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

8 LAURA LEIGH,

9 Plaintiff,

10 Case No. **3:11-cv-0608-HDM-WGC**

11 vs.

12 SALLY JEWELL, in her official capacity as  
Secretary of the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
THE INTERIOR, MIKE POST, in his official  
13 capacity as Acting Director of the BUREAU  
OF LAND MANAGEMENT; AMY LUEDERS  
14 in her official capacity as Nevada State  
Director of the BUREAU OF LAND  
15 MANAGEMENT,

16 Defendants.

17 \_\_\_\_\_ /  
18 **PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS AND TO  
ALTERNATIVE, MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS**

19  
20 Plaintiff LAURA LEIGH opposes the government defendants' most recent motion to  
21 dismiss and alternative motion for judgment on the pleadings (Dkt. 84), as follows:

22 **WHY THE DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS SHOULD BE DENIED**

23 The defendants' motions should be denied for the following reasons:

- 24 1. The Second Amended Complaint aptly complies with pleading requirements. It  
25 outlines all facets of plaintiff's standing, her harm and seeks appropriate relief;  
26 2. Where analysis under Rule 12(c) is "substantially identical" to analysis under  
27 Rule 12(b)(6), the same reasons defeating the defendants' 12(b)(6) motion aptly  
28 apply to the defendants' motion for judgment on the pleadings. Additionally, the

- 1 motion for judgment on the pleadings, this time, is not timely;
- 2 3. The defendants' motion, somewhat akin to one seeking summary judgment, is
- 3 brought to challenge the sufficiency of the plaintiff's pleading before discovery is
- 4 complete let alone started. Also, if this were truly regarded a summary judgment
- 5 effort, the matters on which the defendants rely from outside the pleadings are
- 6 not in acceptable "proof" form as would be required by Rule 56;
- 7 4. The defendants' motion is an "end run" attempt around the court's order that
- 8 denied this same relief previously, at least as it pertains to Jackson Mountain. It
- 9 is akin to a Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 60 request for reconsideration where no
- 10 appropriate element is present that would justify a reconsideration request;
- 11 5. The plaintiff just recently filed her Motion to amend her complaint to pursue First
- 12 Amendment violations outlined in her proposed Third Amended Complaint (Dkts.
- 13 85, 85-1). The Third Amended Complaint and accompanying motion for
- 14 temporary restraining order (Dkt. 91) became necessary where the defendants
- 15 just announced a new roundup method and more aggressive ban against the
- 16 public observing all roundups in the Triple B Complex. The new complaint, if
- 17 allowed, would supersede the Second Amended Complaint;
- 18 6. The court entered equitable relief multiple times previously against the
- 19 defendants, including two separate TROs and one preliminary injunction. Dkts.
- 20 15, 49, 50. The court found on each occasion, the plaintiff's alleged claims
- 21 supported the requested relief.
- 22 7. The defendants' reliance on the *SUWA* decision to challenge the plaintiff's
- 23 standing is misguided for multiple reasons. Also, *SUWA* would have no
- 24 applicability whatsoever if the Third Amended Complaint is allowed;
- 25 8. The defendants' current motion, just like their previous dismissal motion, is
- 26 brought to avoid having to turn over documents in discovery that are relevant to
- 27 at least a portion of the claims asserted against the defendants.
- 28

**STANDARD OF REVIEW**

1  
2 On a motion to dismiss under Fed.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6), a court assesses whether the  
3 complaint “contain[s] sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief  
4 that is plausible on its face.’ ” *Chavez v. United States*, 683 F.3d 1102, 1108-09 (9th  
5 Cir. 2012), quoting *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678, 129 S.Ct. 1937 (quoting *Bell*  
6 *Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570, 127 S.Ct. 1955 (2007)).

7 “[a]t the pleading stage, general factual allegations of injury  
8 resulting from the defendant's conduct may suffice, for on a  
9 motion to dismiss we ‘presum[e] that general allegations  
10 embrace those specific facts that are necessary to support  
11 the claim.’”

12 *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 561, 112 S.Ct., 2130, 2137 (1992)(quoting  
13 *Lujan v. National Wildlife Federation*, 497 U.S. 871, 889, 110 S.Ct. 3177, 3189 (1990)).

14 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(c), “[a]fter the pleadings are closed—but  
15 early enough not to delay trial—a party may move for judgment on the pleadings.”  
16 “Judgment on the pleadings is properly granted when [accepting all factual allegations  
17 in the complaint as true,] there is no issue of material fact in dispute, and the moving  
18 party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” *Chavez*, 683 F.3d at 1108 (quoting  
19 *Fleming v. Pickard*, 581 F.3d 922, 925 (9th Cir.2009)).

20 Analysis under Rule 12(c) for judgment on the pleadings, is “substantially identical”  
21 to the analysis under Rule 12(b)(6) for dismissal because, under both rules, “a court  
22 must determine whether the facts alleged in the complaint, taken as true, entitle the  
23 plaintiff to a legal remedy. (Cite omitted).” *Chavez*, 683 F.3d at 1108.

24 In determining whether the court has subject matter jurisdiction, the court may  
25 consider evidence outside of the complaint. *Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 373 F.3d  
26 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2004).

**RELEVANT PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

1  
2 Relative to the pending motion, the court has, thus far, granted two TROs (Dkts. 15,  
3 49) and one preliminary injunction (Dkt. 50), each of which centers on the inhumane  
4 handling of wild horses by the defendants within the Triple B Complex and Jackson  
5 Mountain HMA.

6 The defendants moved to dismiss the Jackson Mountain portion of the complaint  
7 after the plaintiff requested documents (in discovery) generated from the Jackson  
8 Mountain roundups. The defendants’ motion to dismiss and motion for judgment on the  
9 pleadings were filed January 2, 2013. Dkt. 70. These motions were essentially denied  
10 March 26, 2013. Dkt. 74. When the plaintiff renewed her request in discovery for the  
11 same documents, the defendants resisted again, this time claiming they never  
12 understood, until just recently, the nature of the plaintiff’s case, that the defendants  
13 were not challenging that part of the agency’s decision allowing the roundups to  
14 proceed, at that they now needed another motion to dismiss. This caused the  
15 defendants to file their motion to dismiss and motion for judgment on the pleadings a  
16 second time. Dkt. 84. This is the motion (Dkt.84) challenged by this opposition.

17 In a most recent attempt at avoiding both court and public scrutiny while rounding up  
18 wild horses in the Triple B Complex, the defendants crafted an Environmental  
19 Assessment (“EA”) they newly reference as the “Three HMA Water and Bait Gather or  
20 Project Area” (“Three HMA Bait/Water Trap Plan” or “Plan”) and which they say is a  
21 “tiered” approach which is to compliment the existing Triple B Complex decision.<sup>1</sup> The  
22 Three HMA Bait/Water Trap Plan (1) prohibits any form of public or press observation  
23 or public scrutiny of the intended activity,<sup>2</sup> (2) limits BLM’s own COR’s observation of

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24  
25 <sup>1</sup> This is, in essence, a new name coined by the defendants that references the  
26 identical geographical regions identified previously as the Triple B Complex and it  
targets the same Triple B Complex horses.

27 <sup>2</sup> Noteworthy is that public observation of bait/water trapping in herd  
28 management areas elsewhere are successfully employed. Plaintiff has personal  
knowledge and experience in observing a BLM bait/water trap operation.

1 the contractor's interaction with wild horses to only 25 percent of the time, where COR  
2 is assigned responsibility for ensuring and enforcing humane treatment of wild horses,  
3 (3) fails to identify the chosen contractor(s) to conduct the bait/water trap operations.  
4 The Three HMA Bait/Water Trap Plan incorporates the same geographical region and  
5 herd management areas and target the same wild horses as that encompassed in the  
6 Triple B Complex.

7  
8 **THE DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS SHOULD BE DENIED  
FOR SEVERAL REASONS**

9 The defendants' motions should be denied for the several reasons discussed below.

10 ***Reason One***

11 The Second Amended Complaint aptly complies with pleading requirements. It  
12 outlines all facets of the plaintiff's standing and seeks appropriate relief.

13 On a Fed.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6) motion, a court assesses whether the complaint  
14 "contain[s] sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to 'state a claim to relief that is  
15 plausible on its face.'" *Chavez*, 683 F.3d at 1108-09.

16 "A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads  
17 factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable  
18 inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct  
19 alleged." (*Cite omitted*) "Determining whether a complaint  
20 states a plausible claim for relief will ... be a context-specific  
21 task that requires the reviewing court to draw on its judicial  
22 experience and common sense." (*Cite omitted*).

23 *Chavez*, 683 F.3d at 1108-09.

24 Clear allegations demonstrating plaintiff's standing are found as follows: See  
25 plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint, Dkt. 42-1, p.6, ¶¶20 through p.15, ¶¶48.

26 Plaintiff's actual injury, injury in fact and harm averments are found as follows: See  
27 plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint, Dkt. 42-1, p.24, ¶¶83 through pp.28-29, ¶¶91, and  
28 p.30, ¶¶96-97. The court also stated previously, verbally during hearings, the plaintiff's

1 standing to assert these claims is established.

2 On two separate instances the court found the plaintiff's Second Amended  
3 Complaint sufficiently justified to grant equitable relief in her favor. See Dkts. 49, 50.

4

5 **Reason Two**

6 Where analysis under Rule 12(c) is "substantially identical" to analysis under Rule  
7 12(b)(6) because, under both rules, "a court must determine whether the facts alleged  
8 in the complaint, taken as true, entitle the plaintiff to a legal remedy,"<sup>3</sup> the same reasons  
9 why the defendants' 12(b)(6) motion should be denied aptly apply to justify the denial of  
10 the defendants' motion for judgment on the pleadings.

11 Also, motions for judgment on pleadings are not appropriate when they cause undue  
12 delays of the process. The defendants' most recent suggestion that they now have a  
13 "clear thinking" moment, or new understanding, or a figurative "light bulb" coming on  
14 with regard to understanding the plaintiff's claims, somehow entitling the defendants to  
15 a second bite at the same "dismissal apple," is the blind-folded approach to reading  
16 court documents and pleadings where the plaintiff had been clear and up-front all along  
17 with what is (and is not) sought with this case. Even the court recognized the plaintiff's  
18 focus. Only the defendant does not. Even so, the defendants' latest "interpretation" is  
19 wrong.

20 **Reason Three**

21 The defendants' motion, appearing akin to one for summary judgment, is brought to  
22 challenge the sufficiency of the plaintiff's pleading before discovery is complete let  
23 alone started. Also, if the defendants' motion were truly regarded a summary judgment  
24 effort, the matters the defendants reference from outside the pleadings would not be  
25 considered acceptable "proof" in form as is required by Fed.R.Civ.P. 56(c)(1),(2). The  
26 insufficient proof on which the defendants rely is found as argument within the motion

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28 <sup>3</sup> *Chavez*, 683 F.3d at 1108.



1 second swipe at dismissal at least with that part of the defendants' new dismissal  
2 motion which discusses or incorporates Jackson Mountain. See, e.g., defendant's  
3 motion to dismiss, Dkt. 84, p.8, l. 2-5, p.9, l. 19-25.

4 The defendants' motion is akin to a Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 60 request for reconsideration  
5 of their prior motion (relative to Jackson Mountain) previously denied. Courts grant  
6 motions for reconsideration only where: (1) it is presented with newly discovered  
7 evidence; (2) it has committed clear error or the initial decision was manifestly unjust; or  
8 (3) there has been an intervening change in controlling law. *Nunes v. Ashcroft*, 375  
9 F.3d 805, 807 (9th Cir. 2004); *Kona Enters., Inc. v. Estate of Bishop*, 229 F.3d 877, 890  
10 (9th Cir. 2000); *Sch. Dist. No. 1J, Multnomah County, Or. v. ACandS, Inc.*, 5 F.3d 1255,  
11 1263 (9th Cir. 1993).

12 None of the enumerated reasons to reconsider the denial of the defendants' prior  
13 motion to dismiss are present with their resurrected motion to dismiss.

14  
15 **Reason Five**

16 Plaintiff just recently filed her Motion to amend her complaint to pursue First  
17 Amendment violations outlined in her proposed Third Amended Complaint (Dkts. 85,  
18 85-1).<sup>4</sup> The Third Amended Complaint became necessary when the defendants  
19 announced a more aggressive ban of the public from observing all roundups in the  
20 Triple B Complex. The defendants' latest effort to preclude public observation of  
21 roundups altogether became the breaking point or "final straw" for the plaintiff who has,  
22 for several years at Triple B Complex roundups, been repeatedly removed and

23  
24 <sup>4</sup> When last visiting the pleadings on the defendants' prior dismissal attempt, the  
25 court recognized the plaintiff had alleged First Amendment violations in the complaint  
26 but not sufficiently with a separately asserted First Amendment claim for relief. See  
27 Order, Dkt. 74, p.2, n.1. *Cf.*, Second Amended Complaint, Dkt. 42-1, p.6, ¶17, p.30,  
28 ¶197, p.31, ¶101, prayer, p.34, ¶17.

The proposed Third Amended Complaint which adds a separate claim for First  
Amendment violations, principally addresses the defendants' new, aggressive efforts to  
ban the plaintiff's observation of wild horse roundups at the Triple B Complex.

1 unreasonably held afar from meaningful observation of roundup activities.

2 The plaintiff is stymied and challenged by the defendants' continual and repeated  
3 "ramping up" efforts to remove her from observing the defendants' roundup activities at  
4 the Triple B Complex. Her occasional "lucky shot" (meaning, a lucky photo opportunity)  
5 occurs only when the defendants are not able to contain their roundup efforts within  
6 their own confined space when occasionally drifting toward the plaintiff's assigned post,  
7 and into the view of the plaintiff and her camera.

8 The defendants' new "Three HMA Bait/Water Trap Plan"<sup>5</sup> just put in place for the  
9 Triple B Complex is outlined in the proposed Third Amended Complaint (Dkt. 85-1) and  
10 in the accompanying Emergency Motion for Temporary Restraining Order. (Dkt. 91).  
11 The defendants' newly crafted Plan creates a venue for wild horse roundups that is  
12 cloaked in secrecy at the Triple B Complex. The defendants' Plan completely excludes  
13 all public and press observation of wild horse roundups.<sup>6</sup>

14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 <sup>5</sup> The defendants' "Three HMA Water and Bait Gather or Project Area" ("Three  
16 HMA Bait/Water Trap Plan" or "Plan") was announced mid-May, 2013 with roundups to  
be scheduled as early as mid-June, 2013.

17 <sup>6</sup> In view of what transpired that led to the decision in *Leigh v. Salazar*, 377  
18 F.3d 892 (9th Cir. 2012) ("*Leigh*" decision) and the strong testimony at the preliminary  
19 hearing conducted by the Hon. Larry R. Hicks February 19 and 20 in *Leigh v. Salazar*,  
20 3:10-cv-597, it is an outrage that the plaintiff must now raise once again, a First  
21 Amendment challenge to the complete public and press blackout the defendants seek  
22 to employ once again, this time with their newly crafted bait/water trap Plan. The last  
time the defendants did this, it called attention to the Reporters' Committee for  
Freedom of the Press and the National Press Photographers' Association, who were  
also offended and allowed to file Amici brief by the Ninth Circuit in support of Ms. Leigh.

23 Plaintiff can only surmise that this agency, appearing dissuaded from hiding its  
24 conduct while remaining cavalier to persons' constitutional freedoms, irrespective of the  
federal appellate judiciary's ruling and the continuing public outcry for transparency, is  
out of control. The agency often talks of "transparency" but delivers none of it.

25 The *Leigh* decision is issued by three American heroes, all of whom equated Ms.  
26 Leigh's effort with the likes of Ida Tarbell, (she took on Standard Oil single-handedly  
with her investigative reporting), Rachel Carson (her publication *Silent Spring* caused  
27 the nation to reconsider its pesticide safety policies and she is credited with inspiring  
the beginnings of the EPA), and Izzy Stone (a prolific publisher whose weekly  
28 investigative newsletter was ranked sixteenth by fellow journalists among the "Top 100  
Works of Journalism in the United States in the Twentieth Century").

1 The plaintiff respectfully asks that the court allow her to incorporate by reference, the  
2 matters set forth in her motion to amend (Dkt.85), the proposed Third Amended  
3 Complaint (Dkt.85-1), her Emergency Motion for Temporary Restraining Order (Dkt.91)  
4 and the exhibits accompanying the TRO motion (Dkts.91-1 through 91-4), herein, for  
5 the court's reference purpose in deciding this motion.

6 The proposed Third Amended Complaint, if allowed by the court, would supersede  
7 the Second Amended Complaint. See, *Forsyth v. Humana, Inc.*, 114 F.3d 1467 (9th Cir.  
8 1997), *rev'd on other grounds*, *Lacey v. Maricopa County*, 693 F.3d 896 (9th Cir. 2012)  
9 (reversing the harsh "*Forsyth Rule*" which "waived" prior dismissed claims not  
10 incorporated into the next amended complaint).

11  
12 ***Reason Six***

13 The court entered equitable relief multiple times against the defendants, including  
14 two separate TROs and one preliminary injunction. Dkts. 15, 49, 50. The court found on  
15 each occasion, the plaintiff's alleged claims supported the requested relief as alleged  
16 under the Administrative Procedures Act ("APA") and Wild Free-Roaming Horse and  
17 Burro Act of 1971 ("Wild Horse Act" or "WFRHBA"). This court, advised of all matters  
18 when ordering equitable relief, would have never granted the requested relief if the  
19 same were not supported by the relevant law and facts. (See discussions above).  
20 Equitable relief under these circumstances is rarely given and subject to the strictest of  
21 hurdles to obtain. When granting equitable relief, the court took great care and was  
22 cautious before ordering such relief, and did so guided by its judicial experience and  
23 common sense.

24  
25  
26 This continuing effort to remove the public, the press and their cameras so as to  
27 *remove* the controversy from the public's eye, is repugnant particularly so, in the wake  
28 of the strong language from *Leigh*, involving these same parties, where the court stated,  
"[t]he free press is the guardian of the public interest and the independent judiciary is  
the guardian of the free press." *Id.*

1 **Reason Seven**

2 The defendants' reliance on *SUWA*<sup>7</sup> to challenge the plaintiff's standing is misguided  
3 when not recognizing that the plaintiff's injury is "fairly traceable" to the defendants' final  
4 decision. Also, the Second Amended Complaint amply satisfies all Article III  
5 requirements of standing.

6 Also, *SUWA* would be inapplicable should the Third Amended Complaint be allowed  
7 to stand as the operative pleading, for the several reasons that follow, which  
8 compliment one another. Firstly, the defendants' newly designated Three HMA  
9 Bait/Water Trap Plan appears as yet another "final decision" for operations within the  
10 Triple B Complex, which through the defendants' own admission within the document  
11 defining the Plan, is "tiered" (meaning complimentary) to the Triple B Complex EA. The  
12 new Plan, as a final decision, incorporates all conduct and decisions which the  
13 defendants employed previously into the new Plan, thus negating, or (using a favorite  
14 defense term) "mooting" the defendants' argument.

15 Secondly, the Three HMA Bait/Water Trap Plan when prohibiting public observation  
16 of government activities which occur on public lands and involving management of  
17 public resources (America's wild horses), violates laws of the United States where the  
18 defendants' defined restrictions clearly run afoul of the basic constitutional right of  
19 access of the plaintiff to observe the government activity, as those rights are  
20 enumerated in the First Amendment together with its interpretations.<sup>8</sup>

21 Thirdly, the proposed Third Amended Complaint would supersede the Second  
22 Amended Complaint. See, *Forsyth, supra*.

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 <sup>7</sup> *Norton v. Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance*, 542 U.S. 55, 124 S.Ct. 2373  
25 (2004) ("*SUWA*").

26 <sup>8</sup> See, U.S. Const., amend I; *Richmond Newspapers, Inc. v. Virginia*, 448 U.S.  
27 555, 100 S.Ct. 2814 (1980); *Globe Newspapers Co. v. Superior Court of Norfolk*  
28 *County*, 457 U.S. 596, 102 S.Ct. 2613 (1982); *Press-Enterprise v. Superior Court*, 578  
U.S. 1, 106 S. Ct. 2735 (1986); *California First Amendment Coalition v. Woodford*, 299  
F.3d 868 (9th Cir.2002); *Leigh v. Salazar*, 377 F.3d 892 (9th Cir. 2012).

1 Finally, the government's reliance on SUWA is misplaced. *SUWA* involves a 5  
 2 U.S.C. § 706(1) claim for a "failure to act." The Second Amended Complaint, although  
 3 asserting a "failure to act," does so under 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A) and (D) and which  
 4 includes key language, "not in accordance with law." See, e.g., plaintiff's Second  
 5 Amended Complaint, Dkt. 42-1, p. 24, ¶¶ 81-83. In this regard, paragraph 82 of the  
 6 Second Amended Complaint states, by example, in relevant part, as follows:

7 Defendants' failure and/or refusal to act to enforce the  
 8 humane laws of the United States as indicated herein, is in  
 9 fact, agency action defined at 5 U.S.C. § 551(13) (a failure  
 10 to act), ***that is arbitrary, capricious, and an abuse of***  
 11 ***discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law,***  
 12 ***and/or is agency action implemented without***  
 13 ***observance of procedure required by law,*** as is  
 14 contemplated in the Administrative Procedures Act, 5 U.S.C.  
 15 §§ 706(2)(A) and/or (D).

16 Dkt. 42-1, p.24, ¶82. Emphasis added.

17 In *SUWA*, the Supreme Court held that a claim under § 706(1) (brought under the  
 18 FLPMA) "can proceed only where a plaintiff asserts that an agency failed to take a  
 19 *discrete* agency action that it is *required* to take," a limitation that precludes a "broad  
 20 programmatic attack" against an agency. *SUWA*, 542 U.S. at 64 (emphasis in original).  
 21 The Court, however, also noted a distinction, as an example, that allegations that an  
 22 agency "fail[ed] to revise land use plans in proper fashion" and "fail[ed] to consider  
 23 multiple use" (FLPMA as the example) are properly categorized as agency action "not in  
 24 accordance with law" under § 706(2), rather than "agency action unlawfully withheld."  
 25 *Id.* at 65.

26 Plaintiff does not contest the defendants' broad discretion under the Wild Horse Act  
 27 when managing public lands for multiple use. But, there is no agency discretion  
 28 involved where the defendants must handle wild horses humanely were humane

1 methods are a specifically mandated under the Wild Horse Act. See 16 U.S.C. §1333  
 2 (b)(2)(iv)(B), where the *humane* removal of excess wild horses is stated in mandatory,  
 3 not permissive language. See also, definition of “humane” at 43 CFR § 4700.0-5.

4 Plaintiff believes where the defendants fail to consider specific methods of humane  
 5 handling of wild horses before issuing a final decision, that such a claim, consistent with  
 6 the general allegations found in, by example, paragraph 82 of the Second Amended  
 7 Complaint (above), does, in fact, encompass action the agency should have considered  
 8 but failed to consider in their final decision, which conduct would be properly  
 9 categorized as agency action “not in accordance with law” under Section 706(2).<sup>9</sup>

10 The real “rub,” however, involves the defendants’ notion or assumption that *all* of  
 11 plaintiff’s claims emanate from the agency’s conduct occurring after the final decision  
 12 represented by the published EA for the Triple B Complex. Not so. The defendants’  
 13 actions that caused this court to issue equitable relief on at least three separate  
 14 occasions, are the unfortunate, concomitant results of an agency that failed in the first  
 15 instance, to truly consider humane methods of wild horse handling before publishing  
 16 and then following their final decision, to a dismal result.

17 The defendants’ failure to consider, or even regard humane methods of handling  
 18 before finalizing their decision, (beyond just providing “lip service” to, minimally  
 19 recognizing their obligation of “humane” handling from the Wild Horse Act) is  
 20 commensurate with, and incorporated into the general allegations of the claims  
 21 asserted in the Second Amended Complaint. See again, the example set forth in  
 22 paragraph 82 of the Second Amended Complaint. Dkt. 42-1, p.24, ¶82. Such action is  
 23 properly categorized as agency action “not in accordance with law” under § 706(2) or  
 24 agency action that is arbitrary and capricious, or implemented without observance of

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25  
 26 <sup>9</sup> Even a Section 701 claim might survive judicial scrutiny where no discretion is  
 27 involved in the “humane” handling of horses where the clear mandate is to employ  
 28 “humane” methods, but where the agency’s discrete action disregards the law (the Wild  
 Horse Act) that it is required to follow. Such action could conceivably be agency action  
 that is unlawfully withheld in a Section 701 claim.

1 procedure required by law, even under the examples provided in *SUWA. Id.* at 65.

2  
3 ***Reason Eight***

4 The defendants' current motion, just like their previous dismissal motion, is brought  
5 to avoid having to turn over documents in discovery that are relevant to the very  
6 conduct against which the plaintiff seeks redress, where actions occurring subsequent  
7 to the final decision, is proof that the agency never considered or implemented  
8 "humane" methods of handling *before* entering its final decision.

9 Plaintiff contends the defendants' latest dismissal effort is but a discovery motion  
10 cloaked in another dismissal motion, a sort of "riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an  
11 enigma." The defendants seek protection from producing relevant documents by  
12 bringing motions to dismiss to limit what they must produce in discovery.

13 **CONCLUSION**

14 For the stated reasons, plaintiff respectfully requests that the defendants' latest  
15 motion to dismiss and their alternative motion for judgment on the pleadings, be denied.

16 Should the court find the relevant complaint deficient even under "notice"  
17 requirements, that where the plaintiff is able to state a viable claim based on the  
18 discussions offered above, that she be given leave to amend.

19 Respectfully June 27, 2013

20 LAW OFFICE OF GORDON M. COWAN

21 s/

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23 Gordon M. Cowan Esq. (SBN 1781)  
24 Attorney for Plaintiff LAURA LEIGH

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b); LR 5-1

I certify that on the date indicated below, I filed the foregoing document(s) with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which would provide notification and a copy of same to counsel of record.

Dated: June 27, 2013

s/

\_\_\_\_\_  
G.M. Cowan