



Wild Horse Sanctuary

P.O. Box 30 • Shingletown, CA 96088

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November 2004

*Heartbreaking News
but still hopeful*

Dear Friend,

If you didn't see my June letter on the Sanctuary's Website, I wanted to share with you some of what I wrote. Lack of time when we learned of a pending July land auction prevented us from sending a regular letter by mail, so we 'posted' the information on our web page.

Essentially, we were letting everyone know the heartbreaking news that our benefactress of one year ago was now forced to sell the land she had purchased for the Sanctuary to use. She informed us that 2,300 acres of land that is home to our wild horses would be auctioned on the Internet July 12th.

The auction took place as scheduled, but only 180 acres were sold. Fortunately, the Sanctuary and our wild horses have been able to temporarily use the land that didn't sell. However, another auction is scheduled for December 2004.

Our focus since learning about the auction has centered on doing everything possible in the continuing efforts for land purchase.

At the end of June we had secured 2,000 acres as a permanent home for the wild horses. Currently, negotiations are in progress for an additional 768 acres.

I want to thank you for all you've done to help us care for the wild horses – they have never been healthier or looked more beautiful. Your help with our land costs and feeding programs enable us to provide a home for wild horses that were suffering or faced destruction.

As we continue to do everything possible to retain as much as we can of the wild horses' home here in Shingletown, there has been lots of other activity, too. Upon reflection – this past year may just have been one of our busiest ever!

After rebuilding four of the cabins at camp this spring, June saw the arrival of five university interns from three states, and also Spain and Germany. We are grateful for the work and maintenance projects they completed. The girls also fed and cared for horses and helped with trail rides. Having volunteer help keeps all our costs down – maximizing donations for the good of the horses. As compensation for their work, our interns benefit from valuable experiential learning and receive university credits.

This year was a great year for press thanks to volunteer Fred Sater, of Fred Sater Communications. The many news articles Fred generated – which included a front page of the Travel Section in *The Washington Post* – helped fill our ride season. Having full rides is important to maximizing the benefits of this fund raising and educational program.

A very special guest to the Sanctuary on August 4th was the First Lady of California, Maria Shriver with daughters Christina and Katherine. Maria Shriver's visit, along with Peter Greenberg was for The Travel Channel's Maria Shriver's California. The program is scheduled to air in November 2004. Please check local program guides for dates and times.

Our second Annual Open House, held on August 21st, was well attended and allowed guests an opportunity to get better acquainted with the Sanctuary and it's many programs. As always, everything we do is directed toward our goal of educating the public regarding wild horses and their plight.

Every year government agencies remove thousands of wild horses from their rightful home on public lands. Many of these horses are placed in loving, responsible homes and adapt to a domestic lifestyle. However, hundreds, possibly thousands, are too old or have some characteristic that makes a domestic life in confinement impossible.

We get calls almost weekly pleading with us to take horses that need their freedom back. We just brought 28 such wild ones here. As soon as the recently gelded males are recovered from their surgery, we will turn them out to enjoy freedom once again. I'll share some photos and more about this on-going rescue in my next letter.

For now, our greatest concern is to retain as much land as we can so we'll always be here for wild horses that need this home.

Please continue to help in any way you can – we can't help the horses without you!



P.S. Our full color 2005 calendars have arrived! It's photos reflect the beauty of the wild horses you have helped save - we remain hopeful that with your help we'll always be here for them.

Warm Regards,

Dianne Nelson



Wild Horse Sanctuary Contribution & Order Form

- Yes, I want to help.
Enclosed is my check for:
- \$38 to feed one unsponsored horse for one month.
- \$50 to become a member of the Sanctuary
- \$114 to care for an unsponsored horse for 3 months.
- \$456 to sponsor a horse for one year.
- ___ Calendars, \$13.00 each plus \$3 shipping.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**MAIL TO: Wild Horse Sanctuary
P.O. Box 30
Shingletown, CA 96088-0030**

Make checks payable to the Wild Horse Sanctuary. Contributions are tax deductible.