

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING

Annual Statewide Public Hearing
Use of Helicopters and Motorized Vehicles
in Wild Horse Management Operations

HELD:

Thursday, June 6, 2013

TIME:

5:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field Office
1300 North Third Street
Rawlins, Wyoming

Reported by:
CRYSTAL HEREFORD, RPR
Wyoming Depo Court Reporters
P.O. Box 205
Lyman, Wyoming 82937
307.747.DEPO (3376)

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Hearing Officer:

Benjamin Smith
Wild Horse and Burro Specialist
Bureau of Land Management
Rawlins Field office
1300 North Third Street
Rawlins, Wyoming

I N D E X

COMMENTS BY:	PAGE
Suzy Noecker	6
(931 Boulder Drive, Laramie, WY)	
Linda Hanick	6
(315 Big Horn Drive, Estes Park, CO)	
Krizstina Gayler	7
(6101 West County Road 80-C, Cherokee Park, CO)	
Christi Chapman	8
(908 Mountain View Boulevard, Rawlins, WY)	
Richard Rakness	10
(119 Airport, Saratoga, WY)	
Melissa "Mitzi" Maser	9
(Rock Springs, WY)	

A T T A C H M E N T S

1. Sign-in Register

1 June 6, 2013
2 Rawlins, Wyoming
3 5:30 p.m.

4 - - -

5 MR. SMITH: Good evening and welcome,
6 everybody. This public hearing is now called to order.

7 My name is Ben Smith. I'm the wild horse
8 and burro specialist here in the Rawlins Field Office
9 for the Bureau of Land Management, and I will be the
10 hearing manager tonight.

11 We will observe several procedural
12 guidelines for this hearing. First, please confine your
13 statements to your views of the Bureau's use of
14 helicopters and motorized vehicles in the management of
15 wild horses and burros.

16 This hearing is not a debate, a trial, or a
17 question-and-answer session on wild horse and burro
18 management. It is an opportunity for the BLM to listen
19 to comments for the record on the use of motorized
20 vehicles in the management of wild horses and burros.

21 Each speaker will be allowed two minutes.
22 We will keep time for each speaker, and I will indicate
23 when one minute remains. If you cannot express all your
24 comments in that length of time, you may submit your
25 further comments in writing.

As the hearing manager, I will recognize

1 only one speaker at a time. There will be no discussion
2 or cross-questioning of the speaker.

3 All participants are required to sign in on
4 the register, which is here at the front if you haven't
5 done so. I will call each participant in the order on
6 the register to come up to the front of the room and
7 provide their comments. Late arrival participants may
8 sign the register and then will be called to provide
9 their comment.

10 Profanity and vulgar language will not be
11 allowed. Please keep your statements clean, or you will
12 be escorted off the premises.

13 If you have a written statement, you may
14 present them for the record when you come up.

15 Please come up to the front of the room and
16 speak into the microphone -- we don't have one, so we'll
17 just have you stand up here and address the court
18 reporter, if you would, please, where your comments can
19 be heard and recorded. Please state your name, address,
20 and any organization you might represent.

21 Hearing comments will be available at a
22 later date upon request.

23 If there are any questions about the
24 procedures of this hearing, I can answer them now.

25 Anybody?

1 All right. Since there is no more, kind of
2 a background to this hearing. The Federal Land Policy
3 and Management Act of 1976 authorized the BLM to use
4 helicopters and motorized vehicles in administration of
5 the Wild Horse and Burro Act.

6 The act also requires a public hearing to
7 be held on such use. This annual public hearing this
8 evening, June 6, 2013, is being held in accordance with
9 the regulations to obtain information and your views,
10 comments, and suggestions about the Bureau of Land
11 Management's use of helicopters and motorized vehicles
12 in the management of wild horses within the state of
13 Wyoming.

14 Management of wild horses includes such
15 things as wild horse removals, aerial census, and
16 population distribution flights of wild horse management
17 areas. Motorized vehicles in the form of semitrucks and
18 trailers and pickup trucks will also be used to
19 transport wild horses, and our trucks and trailers and
20 pickup trucks will also be used to transport wild horses
21 in our management actions.

22 At this time this hearing is open to the
23 public to state their comments. Please remember, come
24 up to the front of the room and state your name,
25 address, and any organization you might represent,

1 followed by your statement.

2 As the hearing manager, I will now call on
3 the participants on the register to come forward. And
4 Jay will do that for me.

5 MR. E'WART: Suzy --

6 MS. NOECKER: Noecker.

7 MR. E'WART: -- Noecker.

8 MS. NOECKER: Suzy Noecker, Wyoming Farm
9 Bureau Federation; 931 Boulder Drive in Laramie,
10 Wyoming.

11 And our members are all okay with the use
12 of motorized vehicles to count and round up and do all
13 the things that you use them for. So thank you.

14 MR. E'WART: Linda Hanick.

15 MS. HANICK: My name is Linda Hanick. I
16 live at 315 Big Horn Drive, Estes Park, Colorado. I am
17 on the board of the Cloud Foundation, and I also am a
18 member of the Northern Colorado Wild Horse and Burro
19 Partners.

20 My position and the position of the
21 Cloud Foundation is that helicopter roundups are, first,
22 costly; not the most humane method of collecting horses;
23 and there are other methods that work much more
24 effectively, such as bait trapping.

25 I've witnessed several helicopter roundups

1 in my experience, and the end result seems to be much
2 more effective on a less motorized means of collecting,
3 such as bait trapping, which has been very effective in
4 several places, including here in Northern Wyoming at
5 the Pryors.

6 In light of the recent National Academy of
7 Science report, I would agree also with what they said,
8 that helicopters are costly and there are better ways of
9 on-range management. Gathers can be destructive, and
10 they should stop, and we should have more in the wild
11 management as opposed to using helicopters to do this.

12 MR. E'WART: I can't --

13 MS. GAYLER: Krizstina. It's spelled
14 differently.

15 I am Krizstina Gayler. My address is
16 6101 West County Road 80-C, Cherokee Park, Colorado.
17 I'm from the Northern Colorado Wild Horse and Burro
18 Partners also.

19 And I highly disagree with the helicopter
20 roundups. And we are training lots of mustangs with my
21 husband. He's a 40-years experienced professional
22 trainer for movies and so many type of horse manages.

23 And we have really bad situations in the
24 past about mustangs. When everything goes well and the
25 helicopters goes around and the horse really behave

1 themselves well, we had some really bad injuries also
2 with kids about that. And highly inhumane. And I think
3 it's wasted money when miles and miles a helicopter goes
4 after one horse. And there are other issues that can be
5 taken care of about wild horses, how they run them.

6 That's what I think. Thank you.

7 MR. E'WART: Christi, would you like to
8 make a statement?

9 MS. CHAPMAN: Yeah, I'll say something.

10 My name is Christi Chapman, and I live at
11 908 Mountain View Boulevard here in Rawlins. I'm
12 representing Caring-Learning-Connecting Rescue and
13 Rehabilitation. We're an organization that wants to do
14 some education about issues specifically to the West.
15 That's a little bit of background here.

16 And the wild horse issue is really
17 important to us. I have hauled livestock, including
18 horses, in a semitruck and trailer, and I've moved a lot
19 of -- I'm very familiar with livestock and spend a lot
20 of time out with the horses.

21 My position on it is that I think the
22 helicopters are probably the most effective and less
23 stressful way, simply because it -- I think with bait
24 trapping you're going to run into problems. There's
25 been some documentation of some that died, I think,

1 because of the bait trapping.

2 And I'm not a hundred percent on the
3 helicopter side, but I'm not a hundred percent opposed
4 to it either.

5 That's it. Thanks.

6 MR. E'WART: Richard, would you like to
7 make a statement?

8 MR. RAKNESS: Can I ask a question?

9 MR. SMITH: Just a statement.

10 MR. RAKNESS: You'll have to let me think a
11 minute then.

12 MR. E'WART: Mitzi?

13 MS. MASER: Melissa Maser, also known as
14 Mitzi. I'm from Rock Springs. I'm with -- I represent
15 Protect Mustangs. I'm the outreach coordinator for
16 Wyoming and Texas, due to the fact that I'm a native
17 Texan. My husband is from Wyoming, born and raised,
18 large family in the oil business.

19 And I'm highly opposed to these helicopter
20 roundups. I think they're inhumane. I've watched it.
21 I've studied this. I've studied the -- both spectrums.
22 There are more humane ways. Bait trapping, I agree.
23 They're heinous.

24 I'm on the list to observe the roundups.
25 From what I understand, they're in August. I'm there to

1 observe. Thank you.

2 MR. E'WART: Back to Richard.

3 MR. RAKNESS: If I don't say this right,
4 you holler. Can I just stand here?

5 MR. SMITH: Sure.

6 MR. RAKNESS: I don't represent anybody but
7 us guys from the back hills.

8 MR. SMITH: Can you say your name and your
9 address?

10 MR. RAKNESS: Oh. Richard Rakness.

11 MR. SMITH: Your address?

12 MR. RAKNESS: I don't even know where the
13 hell I live -- 119 Airport, Saratoga.

14 My -- no. I don't know how to do that
15 without asking a question.

16 My concern is everyone talks one horse,
17 three horses, five horses. I think all these groups
18 ought to get together and make some kind of a decision
19 in what the cat hair to do with 50 to 60,000 horses.

20 MR. SMITH: Richard -- sorry -- this is
21 just about use of motorized vehicles.

22 MR. RAKNESS: Motorized, go for it. Riding
23 horses is old-fashioned.

24 Sorry about that. I knew I was going to do
25 it wrong.

1 MR. E'WART: That's it.

2 MR. SMITH: Okay. Since there are no
3 further comments, this hearing is now adjourned. Thank
4 you for your participation.

5 I would ask that everyone gather themselves
6 and proceed to the exit. The building will be cleared.
7 The restrooms will be checked and the building secured.

8 This hearing is now adjourned. Thank you.

9 (Proceedings concluded at 5:43 p.m.)

10 -ooOoo-

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