

"Wild Horse Journal Entry" by [Pam Nickoles](#)

July - 2010:

We're on the road quite a bit this summer, exploring the various herd areas within Colorado, Wyoming and Montana; however, it's a much different feeling this year. So many of these areas are on the BLM roundup schedule that there's a new sense of urgency to see these horses before they're lost to us forever.

Everywhere we go, the horses and the range are in such beautiful condition. It seems incredibly wasteful and cruel to uproot these horses from their social bonds, to separate them from their families, run them for miles over rough terrain, sterilize them and stick them in confinement - all at an enormous cost to taxpayers. Do people even know these horses belong to US? Do people even know how they languish in holding facilities with their spirits broken? Can people even conceive how terrifying this whole process is to a peaceful prey animal? Do people even realize that wild horses in captivity now outnumber the free ones out on the range? How do we motivate people to look into this issue? How can we bring attention to the injustice of it all? There is so much wrong with the world right now - how can we get people to care?





I don't know how to describe it, but when I'm out on the wild horse ranges, I finally feel connected to something greater. It's spiritual. The wild horses, their existence, the land on which they live - it's just good for my soul. If the horses and the land are gone, what will fill that void? Do people even realize that when the horses are gone, the land will be too? Our beautiful icons of the west and our pristine lands - will they be missed?



It sounds so cliché, but it's true - the wild horses represent our legacy and history. They have been my biggest source of joy and my greatest heartbreak, but as strongly as I believe in anything, I feel it is my life's purpose to bring their images and stories to people who would not otherwise know about them. It's amazing to me how many people still don't even realize there are wild horses left. How long will we be able to say that? At the rate at which they're being removed, will photographs be all that we can remember them by?



Their eyes - are they pleading with me to tell their story? I will do my best, I promise.

I simply cannot imagine a world without wild horses roaming free on their ranges. What a loss that would be for all of us and the generations that follow. How will we explain to a horse-crazy youngster that the wild horses in their books and dreams are all but memories?

It is my greatest hope that through the continuing efforts of many dedicated wild horse lovers, people will become aware of their situation and find a way to open their hearts to the plight of the Mustangs - our quickly disappearing, wild horses in need.



There is a devastating roundup currently underway in the Twin Peaks HMA in California. You can follow this roundup through the eyes of one of the Humane Observers on location:

Elyse Gardner's Blog - (<http://humaneobserver.blogspot.com>)

For more information and ways you can help:

American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign - (<http://www.wildhorsepreservation.org>)

Equine Welfare Alliance - (<http://equinewelfarealliance.org>)

The Cloud Foundation - (<http://www.thecloudfoundation.org>)

Pam Nickoles Photography Blog (Adventures with Wild Horses and Other News.)

- (<http://nickolesphotography.wordpress.com>)