
Dozens of Wild Horses Die of Starvation on the ISPMB ranch. Statement Updated: September 29, 2016 5:56 pm

My name is Colleen M. Burns. Please know that as I write this there is a heavy ache in my stomach and sadness in my heart that I have never before experienced. When I began work for and living on the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros (ISPMB) ranch in April of 2015, I was full of hope and joy. I was working my dream job and able to apply my life and professional skills to help wild horses for an organization that has been saving them since 1960. Being able to use my life to help these amazing wild horses was a truly magical experience. It was a dream...a dream that turned into the most horrific of nightmares.

For the past 16 years the ISPMB's president, Karen A. Sussman, moved the direction of the ISPMB toward "preservation of endangered herds" with the intention of "studying their behavior in an effort to change the way the BLM is managing free-roaming wild horses" by relocating four separate herds of horses onto her property in Lantry, South Dakota. Over those 16 years, the original number of horses was approximately 260. Currently it is estimated that over 650 horses are being kept on the ranch. The organization has failed to generate the income needed to adequately feed and maintain these numbers. In 2006, it is noted on the organization's website that there was concern for the organization's ability to feed the horses. *What started as good intentions has become a living nightmare. What you are about to read and see should NEVER have been allowed to happen.*

My efforts to effect positive change for the ISPMB wild horses have been unsuccessful. When horses began to die and my concerns for their well being dismissed out of hand by both the ISPMB president and board of directors, I began documenting their deaths. One common theme here is the obvious lack of veterinarian care. In all of the below cases, a vet was never called to the property. A complete collection of my photographs and raw video has been made available to the Animal Legal Defense Fund, who will be making this information available to the Humane Society of the United States, South Dakota State Attorney's office, South Dakota State Veterinarian's office, Dewey and Zieback County Sheriffs departments.

Documentation Journal Entries – Written by: C.M. Burns

From mid-June 2016 to present day, there have been over 30 wild horses that have died from starvation related causes on the ISPMB ranch located in Lantry, South Dakota. The ISPMB ranch is home to over 650 wild horses and it is my estimate that another 100 or more of them are in imminent danger of dying...all from starvation or the fast approaching winter. Some horses are so emaciated that I am not sure how they are still standing. Others have lost so much weight that if they do not have 24 hour access to high quality food before winter sets in, they will not survive.

In April of 2016, I learned that the financial status of the organization was in complete disarray and paying for feed deliveries was extremely difficult. At the beginning of April 2016, feed deliveries became sporadic. The main wild horse population, consisting of the White Sands, Catnip and Virginia Range herds, had gone several periods without food; periods consisting of anywhere from one to three days. Both myself and the ISPMB's ranch hand Fred expressed concerns over the lack of food and asked when hay would be delivered. During one of my inquiries, I was told, by the organization's president, that there are so many feed suppliers holding checks with a promise to pay and some suppliers are currently proceeding with judgments, that getting local feed deliveries is almost impossible. Almost every major feed supplier in the state refuses to deliver hay due to unfulfilled promises to pay for deliveries. I do not know the names of all the hay suppliers who are holding checks, but have heard that this issue goes back several years. (Note: Karen Sussman is appearing in court on September 27, 2016 to respond to a judgment petitioned by Jason Lutz (hay supplier) for writing bad checks. She is supposed to appear in court in Bison, S.D. Other judgments have been filed and served to Karen in the past six months for the same reason.)

During the months of May and June 2016 both ranch hand, Fred Rowley and I openly expressed concerns to Karen regarding the weight loss taking place among the herd horses. Some horses had lost hundreds of pounds leaving them very emaciated.

Beginning in June 2016 horses began to die. From mid-June 2016 to mid-July 2016, seven wild horses died from starvation. Four horses from the Virginia Range herd and three from the White Sands herd died in an emaciated state. Also during that period of time I had daily conversations with Karen Sussman, where I expressed my concerns and asked how we might turn this around. Many of her responses gave me cause for concern. During one of our meetings, I told her I was worried that more horses would die if something is not done. She said "I don't want to hear this right now and besides only two horses have died". The shock I felt over my concerns being taken lightly was far overshadowed by the fact that I had to remind her that seven horses had died. I am not sure how she forgot because she was right there with me and/or our ranch hand and was a witness to their deaths or gave instructions for the euthanasia of a suffering horse.

After the first two horses died and due to the continued degradation of the horses' conditions and my unsuccessful attempts at a resolution, I began documenting the physical condition of the horses starting around mid-June 2016. The images are shocking and rank up there as the some of the most disturbing images I've ever seen.

At the beginning of June 2016, two mares of the Virginia Range herd died over the course of two days; both emaciated. On June 25, 2016 a red roan stallion in the Virginia Range herd died emaciated. I was unable to get photographs of these three horses before they were taken to the pit. The pit is a large hole in the ground located in the South herd (Gila herd) pasture. This is where dead horses are taken.

On June 28, 2016 the below Virginia Range stallion dropped to the ground in front of me showing extreme weakness and lethargy. I immediately called Karen. We sat him up and in doing so we discovered the wound on his neck. He was extremely emaciated. Although we attempted to nurse him with fresh water and hay, he died about an hour after going down. Almost every day, the two weeks prior to this horse dying, I told Karen that he really needed help.



Virginia Range Stallion—Died June 28, 2016

Anyone with horses knows that horses do lose this much weight over night. This is caused by an extended period of time where the horse is without proper nutrition.

Also on June 28, 2016 another Virginia Range stallion went down and was unable to stand. As you can see by his body condition he was extremely emaciated. We removed him from the herd so he would have access to 24 hour hay but he died about two hours after removing him from the herd. The leg markings show that this is not the same horse shown above.



Virginia Range Stallion w/White Socks — Died June 28, 2016

When I expressed my concern to Karen over the welfare of the horses she yelled at me saying "I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN." It was then that I asked her if the ISPMB board of directors knew that horses are dying and she said "yes, they know". I begged her to walk through the herds. She insisted "I have seen them."

The next two photos are of two different White Sands fillies, each approximately 8 months to one year of age. Both died emaciated. You can tell them apart through their face and leg markings. The filly on the left was taken out of the White Sands herd on July 15, 2016 in an attempt to save her life. She died the next day. The filly on the right was found dead amongst the White Sands herd on July 26, 2016.



White Sands Filly, approx 8m of age
Died July 16, 2016



White Sands Filly w-Star, approx 1y of age
Died July 26, 2016

On July 17, 2016 the below White Sands mare was found unable to stand due to her weakened and emaciated state. The below image is a still from a video taken of her trying to stand up. This mare was lifted with the tractor and moved to a pen next to the tractor barn. She survived one more day but died in the night.



White Sands Mare—Died 07-18-16

From mid-July 2016 to mid-August 2016, feed deliveries began arriving on a regular basis. I thought the worst was over and that the remaining horses could be saved. In addition, several key people joined the organization including a professional fundraiser. I've been working with these new consultants on a regular basis and am excited about the results. Although I have faith in the potential of our extended team, there have been some other issues that have me fearing for the safety of these horses unless major changes take place.

During the last week of August 2016, the feed deliveries stopped. The herd horses were only fed once in a seven day period. Over a dozen horses had to be removed from their herds because they were so weak they had gone down and could not stand back up. We were able to get those lucky ones in front of 24 hour food. Most of the remaining 600+ horses were not as lucky. They continued to go without the proper amount of food and care.

On September 1, 2016, while I was conducting welfare checks on the horses, I found a 4 month old foal on the ground and unable to stand. This was also witnessed by a neighbor, Charlie Brooks and our ranch hand Fred Rowley. As I stood over the weakened foal, she tried to stand but was unable. Fred and I moved this foal to a confined area and administered immediate care. As of 9-26-16, she is receiving emergency care but is still in critical condition. She has not received veterinarian care. I named her September.



Still frames taken from video of White Sands Filly too weak to stand. Video taken 090116.

As I was filming the above filly, a large group of the White Sands horses approached me. The below images are still frames taken from a video I made as the herd approached me.

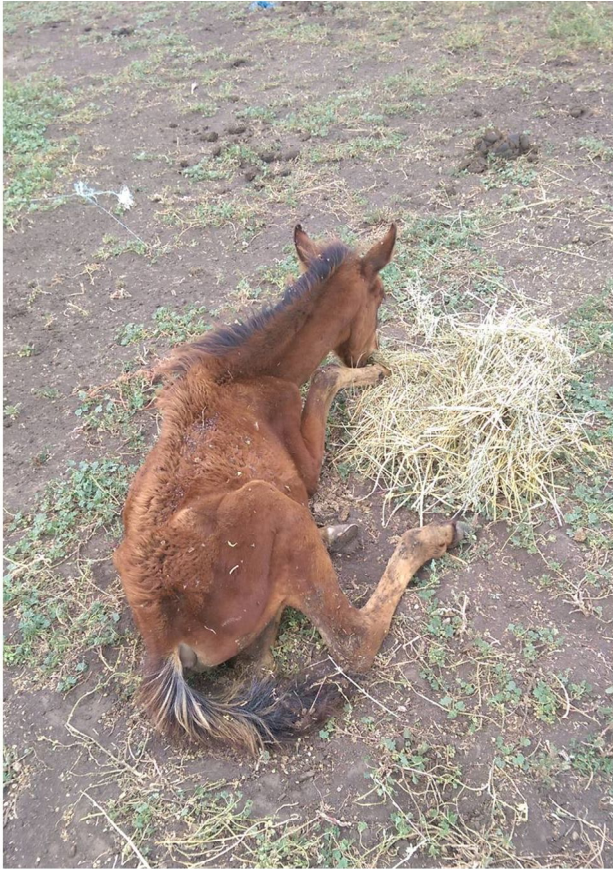


Still Frames taken from video of White Sands herd members filmed on 09-01-16

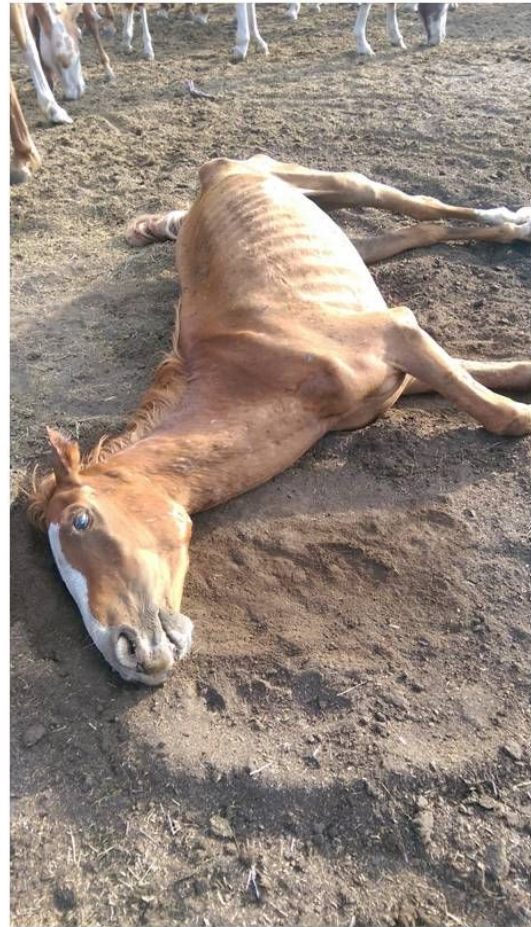
My observations of their body condition and continued weight loss, plus the memory of the first seven that died in June and July, prompted me to act outside of the organization's president. I placed a call to one of the ISPMB board members, Cheryl Rowe of Rapid City. At the commencement of the call I asked if she was aware of the situation on the ranch. She said she knew the ISPMB was having trouble buying feed but said that she had been "hearing that for years". She stated that she was unaware of any welfare issues with the horses.

I spilled my heart out, telling her about the filly that couldn't stand up, the seven others who died and the dozens of others in immediate danger of dying from starvation. She assured me that she had no idea and would call Karen to find out what was happening.

On the morning of September 3, 2016 a stallion from the Catnip herd and another foal from the White Sands herd went down; both unable to stand due to weakness and lack of nutrition. I called Karen, who was working at the local hospital on this day. I sent her an image of the Catnip stallion (pictured below right) and gave her the assessment of his condition. He was currently going into seizures. She instructed me to have Fred euthanize the stallion. Although the foal (pictured below left) was taken in for immediate access to food, it died the next day.



White Sands Foal
Died 09-04-16



Catnip Stallion—Died 09-03-16

On September 3, 2016 I placed another call to Cheryl, explaining the current situation and actually begged her to come and tour the facility. She arrived a few hours later to see, first hand, the condition of the horses. While I was giving her a tour, she took dozens of photographs. These two photographs were taken by Cheryl of two White Sands herd member who were down, unable to stand up. One was approximately one year old while the other just a few months old. Both horses were very underweight and unable to stand from weakness. With the help of our ranch hand, we were able to get the foal (picture below left) standing and in front of hay.



White Sands Foal—Unable to stand 090316, photo: CRowe



White Sands Yearling—Unable to stand 090316, photo: CRowe
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This yearling colt (above right and below photos) was unable to stand due to malnutrition. Our ranch hand helped me move the young animal to a separate holding area and we gave it free access to food, water and attempted to give additional supplements.

Later that day, I was visited by our neighbor Charlie Brooks, whose ranch is located across the street. He was coming to offer help in securing a few bales of hay as the horses had little to no hay. While Charlie and I were standing in front of my house I noticed that the yearling colt Fred and I had moved out of the White Sands herd was down again and having, what appeared to be, seizures. I called Karen and advised her of the state of the colt. She instructed me to call Fred and have him euthanize the colt. Fred arrived about a half hour later and ended the colts suffering. The below is a still frame of the video I took of the colt.



White Sands Colt Died 09-03-16

Please note that every single issue regarding the welfare or deaths of these horses was immediately communicated to Karen either by me or the ranch hand. I also remained in open communication with Cheryl.

On September 4, 2016, Karen learned that I had reached out to Cheryl, asking her to come to the ranch. To say she was upset is an understatement. She accused me of causing trouble and said I was way out of line. I offered no apology and explained that she had left me no choice. I reminded her that 11 horses had died from starvation since mid-June and that this organization is broken. I explained that my loyalties are with the horses and I'm not concerned if she's upset that I called a board member, reminding her that I felt it best to reach out to the board on behalf of the horses.

On September 4, 2016 I received an e-mail from ISPMB Treasurer/Secretary, Bobbie Mezyen, asking me to call her. I called Bobbie right way hoping she might be able to offer some, much needed, direction to the organization and its president. The call pretty much consisted of her scolding me. She said I "was out of line" and that I "should not have involved anyone". I offered no apology. Feeling defeated to my core, I simply asked..."Bobbie are you aware of the number of horses that have starved to death?" She said yes. Out of disbelief I said..."So you know horses are dying?" She confirmed that she "knows everything that is going on". It was at that point that I actually lost all hope that I could do anything to help these long suffering horses by going to the board of directors.

An emergency board meeting was held on September 4, 2016. Cheryl updated me shortly after the meeting and told me that she resigned from the board. She said that her attempts to discuss the dead and dying horses and the dire needs of other horses on the property were taken as "a personal attack on the president". Cheryl also stated that the other board members told her they felt I was "way out of line and should never have called her".

My efforts to keep this "in house" and effect change through collaboration have been met with anger and fear.

Below is a collection of images taken between September 3, 2016 and September 5, 2016 that show the state of some of the horses on the ISPMB ranch.



White Sands Foal Died 09-05-16



Catnip Stud Thin 09-05-16



Catnip Herd Members Thin 09-05-16



Catnip Foal Thin 09-05-16

On the morning of September 5, 2016 I was delivering food to one of our largest groups of horses when I came across a dead one year old. Our ranch hand, who was helping me feed, said that she must have died in the night because she was not down when he did the evening checks. I immediately contacted Karen who got in her car and drove into the pen. Her response was "this one didn't die of starvation". As you can see in the image on the left, the animal's spine was sticking out nearly an inch and you could see the thinning in her neck. You couldn't see her ribs because she had already begun to bloat. She was #12...the 12th wild horse to die due to malnutrition. The remains of all 12 horses are in what is called the pit just south of the facility.



White Sands Yearling Died 09-05-16



White Sands Yearling, Img. 2
Died 09-05-16

While I was writing this section of this document (September 12, 2016) letter, I got up to check on the horses in the White Sands herd when I notice another baby down in the largest group. I walked out to see if it was just sleeping or too weak to stand. I wish it had just been sleeping. The foal could not stand up and is too thin. This baby should still be nursing but I assume its mother isn't getting enough nutrition to continue to produce milk. Once they stop producing milk, they don't start back up even if they get fed continually. I was able to help this foal to stand and called Karen to let her know it needed help. She said to leave it alone and that she would have the ranch hands bring it in.



White Sands Foal cream colored legs 09-13-16

Early morning the next day, I saw a black horse down in the White Sands herd. Karen and the ranch hands were already attending to her. She was approximately 8 months of age and unable to stand and, according to Karen, hypothermic. Ranch hands, Karen and I were able to get her standing and loaded into the trailer. That filly died in the trailer the next day never having received veterinarian care. I also pointed out the above foal, reminding Karen it was the one I called her about the day before. She told me to leave it alone and said the "guys will bring it in" Since this was the second time I had to tell Karen this foal was in danger, I asked Fred to catch it. Fred and I took the colt up to the main house area for immediate care. It died overnight between 9-14-16 and 9-15-16. The black filly was taken in for immediate access to food but died the next day on September 14.

On the morning of September 12, 2016 I found this White Sands foal unable to stand. I immediately called Karen who advised me to leave it and she would have "the guys get it". I was not involved in the relocation of this foal. On September 14, 2016 Fred called me to tell me the foal had died. I went to the main house to see the foal. When I got there, Karen told me not to photograph the foal. The image on the left is the one I took on September 12th. The image on the right was taken by Fred after it had died.



White Sands Foal
Died 09-14-16



White Sands Foal
Died 09-14-16

The current health of some of these horses is still in grave danger. I have enough experience in the stewardship of these horses to know that, if they are not given enough food and if that food is not of the highest quality and protein content, there will be many more horses that die as the temperatures drop.

Over the course of the first two weeks in September, Fred and I kept telling Karen about a Catnip stallion that was in danger and extremely thin. Fred and I did our best to get him in front of hay but during those first weeks of September the herds were only being fed about a third of their daily nutrition intake. We told Karen that this stallion was always off by himself and we had to coax him across the pasture to get him food. Charlie Brooks even made a point to tell me he saw this horse all alone on the far side of the pasture.

One problem with not feeding the herds enough hay is that the less dominate horses are pushed away by the more dominant herd members. On September 11, 2016 at approximately 9:30 pm, I was helping light up the Catnip pasture so Karen could bring in four bales of hay. I could not see the Catnip stallion that was so thin so I drove around until I found him alone and on the far west side of the pasture. I used the truck to encourage him up to the feeding area. I called Karen while I was moving him up the hill to make sure she saw him. She saw him and said just leave him at the hay. On September 12, 2016, the below Catnip stallion collapsed from his weakened state. He died on September 13, 2016.



Catnip Stallion, too weak to stand 09-13-16



Catnip Stallion Died 09-13-16

On the morning of September 19, 2016, I received a call from Fred, who was conducting a herd check on the Gila (Hee La) herd that is in a pasture about one mile south of the main facility. He advised me that he found a Gila stallion unable to stand up and was in an emaciated state. I instructed him to call Karen. A few minutes later, he called me back to say that Karen told him to euthanize the stallion. The below photo was taken by Fred Rowley on 091916. Note: The fourth herd known as the Gila (hee la) herd is sustained on a natural grass pasture during the spring and early summer. During that period they are not given hay. Once the Gila pasture stops producing grass they must be fed.



Gila (Hee La) Stallion Died 09-19-16

About an hour after Fred called me about the Gila stallion, he called me back to say he found a dead Gila yearling. The yearling had fallen into the dam area and was unable to get out. Fred said he saw the yearling alive the day before. As seen in the below photo, this yearling was emaciated. Note: Karen has been told multiple times that the Gila horses were in danger and very thin. The below photo was taken by Fred Rowley on 091916.



Gila (Hee La) Yearling Died 09-19-16

I asked Fred if the Gila horses had any food and he said they did not. Two weeks prior I told Karen that the Gila horses did not have any pasture left. At the time, there were only about 15 bales of hay being delivered to feed the herds. A full one day feed for all four herds is approximately 22 bales. She told me that the Gila horses were getting hay on Thursday, September 22nd. I did not know then that the Gila herd was not being fed daily.

The State Vet and Sheriff had visited the ranch on September 15, 2016 and instructed Karen to make sure all horses were fed every day. They also said that the sheriff's office would be visiting every day to make sure they are fed. Once I learned the Gila horses were going to go another four days without hay, I called the State Vet and advised him of the situation. I learned that he called the sheriff who then called Karen and forced her into getting a delivery of hay to the south herd immediately. About two hours after I called the State Vet there was a delivery of hay down south.

A short while later Fred called to tell me that he found the remains of almost a dozen dead Gila horses scattered along the stream bank of the Gila pasture. I called Karen and told her what Fred had found. A few moments later I received a text message from Karen that said "there are not a dozen horses down south". I called Karen and asked her if she had gone down south to see what Fred was talking about. She said "I think I should but I'm so far behind getting ready for our fundraiser." She told me not to go south. Karen left a few hours later to fly to New York for a fundraiser.

The next day, concerned about the state of the Gila horses, I drove down to inspect the remains. I saw at least six dead horses in varying states of decay. One horse in particular looked to have had trouble getting up a small embankment and died right there. I did not see all of the dead horses where they lay because Karen had instructed the ranch hands to take them to the pit. Also, I am in such emotional distress over what has taken place here; I could not bring myself to look at the rest of the dead horses. Fred took pictures of the ones I couldn't bare to see.

The below is a photo of the Gila horse that died on the embankment. I walked up and down this embankment with ease. It's hard to tell when this horse died but it appears to have died around the 17th or 18th of September. It was so bloated that we could not tell if this was a mare or stallion.



Gila (Hee La) Horse Died Week of 09-19-16

The below pictures are still images taken from videos shot of "Grandma", a dapple grey White Sands mare that is currently living in what we call the hospital barn. For almost a year she hobbled around the White Sands herd with extremely long hooves. Approximately two months ago she was having such difficulty walking around the herd that she was brought in to the hospital barn. Watching her trying to walk was heartbreaking. Both Fred and I begged Karen to either get a vet and farrier here immediately or put her down. That was in early August of 2016. I took a video of her on August 26, 2016 in which Grandma can not make it to her food without extreme difficulty. Both Fred and I have continued to bring this mare's plight to the attention of Karen, asking for a vet to come or to put her down. I took another video of Grandma on September 20, 2016 showing her suffering. This mare deserves better than to be left in an enclosed barn suffering and almost unable to get to her food. As of September 26, 2016 she continues to suffer. Grandma's hooves are in excess of 8" in length and she cannot walk without extreme pain.



Still Images of Grandma (L: Taken 08-26-16 C: Taken 09-20-16 R: Close up of front hooves 09-20-16)

On September 22, 2016 at approximately 7:30 am I received a call from Fred telling me that a Gila mare was down and unable to stand. He said she had something red coming out of her vagina. I asked Fred to come get me and take me to the Gila pasture to assess the mare. Please note that Karen was in New York at this time. When I saw the mare, she was scared and trying to get up. I told the ranch hands to back away from her so she could calm down. I immediately photographed and sent those photos to Karen. I called her after sending the photos. I asked her if we could get a vet out here. She said "a vet won't get out there". A vet could easily have made the drive to where this horse was laying.

Karen instructed me to give the mare 10cc of banamine, wait ten minutes and then examine the mare's vagina and see if she was giving birth. I put on gloves and carefully examined the mare. I could not feel a foal in the vagina but did find a cluster of tissue attached to the wall of her vagina. I updated Karen on my

findings. She instructed me to make sure there was hay around her and a bucket of water and to leave her there but to check on her. Fred and I piled hay around her and Fred brought her a large bucket of water. Fred checked on her throughout the day. I called Karen at 2:30 pm to update her on the mare's status. She instructed me to have Fred euthanize the mare. Approximately an hour later, Fred called to say he put the mare down and took her remains to the pit. Below is a sequence of photographs documenting this mare's status.



Gila Mare—Too weak to stand 09-22-16—Died 09-22-16



Gila Mare—Vulva



Gila Mare—Vagina Tissue Cluster

On September 24, 2016 I received a call from Fred telling me he found a dead White Sands foal near the manure pile next to the main gate to the White Sands pasture. He believed the foal had died sometime on the 23rd because he worked on the 22nd and the foal wasn't there. Terrance Circle Bear was working on the 23rd but neglected to check the herds, leaving this foal to be scavenged sometime on the 23rd to the early morning of the 24th. The location of this foal is less than 100 yards from the main house and is in an area that we do not see predators and based on the images, it is my opinion that this foal was placed in jeopardy due to its weakened state. So many of these White Sands foals have died from malnutrition that it could be assumed the same fate befell this foal before it was partially eaten by scavengers.



White Sands Foal Found Dead and Scavenged near main house on 09-23-16

On September 25, 2016 Fred called me during his early morning check of the Gila herd. He advised me that he found a very thin and gravely wounded Gila foal that appeared to have had a ruptured hernia in which the foal's "guts were spilling out of". Somehow that foal was still alive when Fred found it. Karen advised him to immediately euthanize the foal.



Gila Foal—Found alive in this condition.
Found/Died: 09-25-16 Photo: FRowely

On September 26, 2016 at 9:32 am, Fred called to say he found another dead foal in the White Sands herd. As mentioned previously, because the herd horses have had several periods of multiple days without food, the nursing mare's have, most likely, stopped producing milk for their foals. I believe this is what has and continues to jeopardize the foals, especially in the White Sands herd...the largest herd on the property.



White Sands Foal Found Dead 09-26-16
Photo: FRowely

Approximate Spring/Summer 2016 foal counts, by herd: White Sands: 30, Virginia Range: 20, Catnip: 15
Gila: 25

Without further study, it is not clear which mares are still producing milk and which foals are in danger. Based on physical condition of the foals, several need immediate assistance or intervention to gain weight and obtain the needed nutrients for healthy foal development. It is my opinion that if this does not happen, more will surely die.

On the morning of Wednesday, September 28, 2016 I received a call from ranch hand Fred Rowley who advised me he found an emaciated grey mare in the White Sands herd that appeared to have a broken ankle. I asked him if he had called Karen and he said he tried but she is not answering. I met Fred in the White Sands herd area where he pointed out the below mare. (Raw video is on the shared drive.) Upon seeing the state of the mare I attempted to reach Karen through a series of phone calls. When she answered the phone I told her of the mare's condition. She said "I am on the phone and will be done there when I am done." Approximately a half an hour later Karen arrived in the herd area and instructed ranch hands Fred and Terrance to move the mare to the hospital barn. As of 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 29, 2016 this mare has received no veterinarian care.



White Sands Mare—Severe Ankle Injury
Found 09-28-16

Please note that the Virginia Range herd (consisting of over 100 horses) and the Catnip herd (consisting of approximately 120 horses) went over 24 hours without hay between 09-28-16 and 09-29-16. Because of this, the sheriff was called to ensure the horses get fed.

Following are two images of horses that have had injuries or hooves that are so long it is having a detrimental effect on their ability to walk. I have been addressing the issue of these horses' hooves with Karen since April of 2015. Also below is an image of a Gila stallion with a penis injury. This injury was brought to Karen's attention during a herd check nearly three weeks ago. The penis injury was fresh at the time but is now so severe that the stallion cannot retract his penis and may be in danger of contracting an infection.

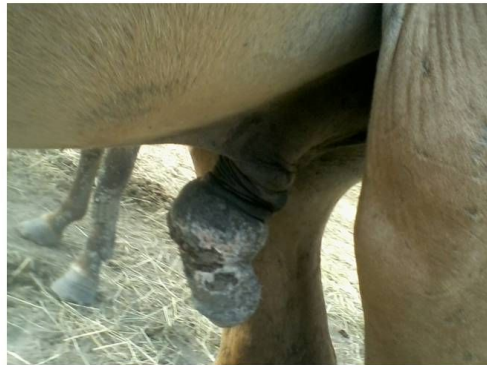
As of September 29, 2016 these horses continue to suffer. Please note that there are several other horses with extremely long hooves that impede their ability to walk.



Virginia Range Mare Long Hooves
06-28-16



Gila Mare, broken ankle 07-04-16



Gila (Hee La) Stallion w-Bad Penis 09-22-16

I have been expressing deep concern over the well being of the herd horses currently living on the ISPMB ranch in Lantry, South Dakota and have had dozens of face to face meeting with ISPMB President Karen A. Sussman to address those concerns. Since the beginning of September, my relationship with Karen has deteriorated substantially. She has effectively shut me out of ranch operations and no longer updates me on the financial status of the organization. The only reason I am still here is to speak for these horses!

Due to the way that Karen and the ISPMB board of directors have failed to address my concerns and the fact that horses continue to suffer and die, I felt it was necessary to reach out for help beyond the boundaries of the organization.

A complete collection of my photographs and raw video has been made available to the Animal Legal Defense Fund, who will be making this information available to the Humane Society of the United States, South Dakota State Attorney's office, South Dakota State Veterinarian's office, Dewey and Ziebach County Sheriffs departments.

It is my hope that these agencies can help the remaining horses and try to salvage the ISPMB legacy that was left to us by Velma "Wild Horse Annie" Johnston over 56 years ago.

Amendment 09-29-16:

I learned on 09-27-16 that Karen Sussman has openly accused me of being a "drug addict" to vendor(s) of the ISPMB. In a phone conversation with Karen on 09-28-16 she made unsubstantiated accusations of illegal drug use and in an email on 09-28-16 she accused me of remove files from her office. The environment has become so hostile that I have consulted with local authorities, address my concerns for my safety.

Since I openly expressed my concerns for the well being of these horses to Karen and the ISPMB board of directors, I have been threatened with termination, screamed at and now am having my reputation attacked. I pray that the remaining horses are appropriately cared for and that the ISPMB president Karen A. Sussman and board of directors are forced to provide the necessary veterinarian care to those currently suffering and to ensure they have hay every day. If that happens, all of my pain will have been in the name of the wild horses, especially the ones who starved to death.

ISPMB Current Board Members:

Karen A. Sussman, President
P.O. Box 55
Lantry, SD 57636
Cell Phone: 605-430-2088
Office: 605-964-6866
Email: ispmb@lakotanetwork.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/karen.a.sussman?fref=ts>

Bobbie Meyzen, Secretary/Treasurer
P.O. Box 365
Georgetown, CT 06829-0365
203-948-3529
Email: bobbiemey@aol.com or wildhorsebobbie@gmail.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bobbie.meyzen.9?fref=ts>

Jill Irvin, Director
Chandler, AZ
480-221-2325
Email: jill.irvin@me.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jill.irvin.129?fref=ts>