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December, 2018

Dear Friend,

*Relief*

How relieved I am that rain has finally come to us! What a blessing and relief from the dryness that has contributed to the disastrous wild fires all over California. Hopefully the rains will bring an end to this fire season and healing can begin for all who have suffered the horrors of the tragic fires.



Volunteers clear our new field for planting and to create open space.

We have received messages from friends and supporters around the world. They hear about the fires and are concerned for our safety and the safety of the wild horses in our care. It has been gratifying to know that so many care and that I can report that none of the devastating fires were ever closer than 30 miles.

At times like these, we are often asked “what can you do if fire threatened the Sanctuary?” We have sought council from wild life experts and fire professionals and we have implemented as much of that council as we can.

Essential for the horse's safety would be open spaces where they could escape a fire. We have been creating and enlarging open spaces by clearing brush and we keep certain areas free of any combustibles during fire season. We will continue to increase these areas as funding and other circumstances allow.

It is our best and only recourse since there would be no way to gather or load hundreds of wild horses for evacuation under such critical conditions. For now, we are safe – the horses are well, and we have had time to prepare for the rain that finally arrived.

This year with the help of many volunteers and a cost share program with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, we were able to clear 30 acres and plant it with native annual grasses. This will provide more grazing for next year and for years to come.

The horses are looking great thanks to your help and support! They have enough to eat and the supplements necessary to keep them healthy.

How I wish we could help more horses – yet – as I write there are tens of thousands of wild horses being confined in long term government holding facilities and more continue to be rounded up.

We have a waiting list for horses to come here – when we can provide for more than the almost 300 that are currently in our care. How it breaks my heart when I must tell those so desperately trying to place a

Protecting and Preserving Freedom for America's Wild Horses

horse in need, that we are at capacity, we have been for quite some time now. This is partly due to how long our wild horses live, which averages between 25-27 years. Also, we are caring for far more horses than our acreage can support – so – that means feeding hay for many months each year—donations aren't quite covering those costs. We simply can't take in more horses than we can responsibly care for.

Funds have always been limited and we make sure they are used carefully to ensure that the horses will have what they need. However, since the down turn in the economy we have felt its affects here. We know everyone has struggles and that's why we are ever more thankful for your help, you have not forgotten that the wild horses here depend on you. Sadly, the protections for the wild horses that were passed into law in 1971 have been weakened by Amendments and the Bureau of Land Management policies over the years. Yet – we must never give up in our efforts to help them. Edmund Burke once said, “No greater mistake was made than by he who did nothing because he could only do a little”.

Thank you for what ever you can do – even if it is just to let your voice be heard in favor of preserving and protecting America's Wild and Free Roaming Horses.

There are myriads of challenges in today's world – let us continue helping one another as we face them. And let us continue to do what we can in protecting all living things that make up the web of life we share including our precious wild horses.

We wish you all that's good, as another year draws to its close.

Warmest wishes,

*Dianne*

Dianne Nelson

*P.S. How relieved I am that the rain has come & for the blessings it brings! Our seed is in the ground and with your support we can care for our horses next year – and the next. Again – thank you! We hope you can visit & we wish you blessing now & in the coming year —*

### Wild Horse Sanctuary Contribution and Order Form

**Yes, I want to help!**

**Enclosed is my check for:**

☐ \$50 to feed one unsponsored horse for one month

☐ \$150 to feed one unsponsored horse for 3 months

☐ \$500 to feed one unsponsored horse for a full year

☐ \$75 for 1 mineral supplement tub

☐ \$55 for 1 dewormer block

☐ \$15ea. for calendar (includes S&H)

Name

Address

City

State  Zip

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**Please Make checks payable to the Wild Horse Sanctuary • Mail to: P.O. Box 30 Shingletown, CA 96088**

You may donate or purchase merchandise through our website: [www.wildhorsesanctuary.org](http://www.wildhorsesanctuary.org)

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