



September | 2024

In this issue

- Message From Board President, Elizabeth Palmer
- Calendar of Events
- Director Spotlight: Jill Tobia, Vice President
- Fire Safety Measures
- The Important Role of Interns
- New Fencing, New Feed Ground
- Working Together

Events

- Year Round: Guided Walking Tours*
- Year Round: Internship Opportunities*
- September 1: 2025 Wild Horse Sanctuary Calendars Available



- December 3: Giving Tuesday

2024 Open House (9/28) - CANCELLED

After much consideration, we've decided to cancel the 2024 Open House. Although all are safe at the Wild Horse Sanctuary, our surrounding communities have been hit very hard by the Park Fire. We look forward to seeing you in the fall of 2025. Stay tuned for details!



Fencing crew volunteers: Kielly, Salome, Jill, Cindy, Doug, Matteo

Hello Friend,

We have always been grateful for the support of our donors and volunteers. Everything we have accomplished in the past 45 years is because of you. Our gratitude is immense, but we were reminded of that in July when the devastating Park Fire came within two miles of the Sanctuary. The minute we received the mandatory evacuation notice, the Sanctuary team kicked into gear, moving essential equipment onto gravel and opening gates to allow horses and burros (the wild ones and our saddles horses) access to the Sanctuary's entire 5,000 acres. Even as the team packed to leave, friends were offering support: shelter for our people and funds to cover expenses associated with the emergency.

Over the following week, we were amazed by the number of people who reached out via social media and telephone, offering help, words of encouragement and prayers. Hundreds of people followed the daily WHS Facebook posts and reached out by phone and text. It was a powerful reminder of the number of people who have experienced the Sanctuary's magic.

The outpouring of love and support reinforced what we have known all along: that we are able to care for the horses and burros because of your commitment to the Sanctuary. We are committed to using our resources wisely to maximize every dollar you donate. In this issue, we describe how grant funds enabled us to significantly reduce wildfire fuel on the Sanctuary and how dedicated, industrious volunteers replaced some critical fencing for a fraction of the estimates we received from contractors. Please check out the *New Fencing, New Feed Ground* article in this issue of the newsletter.

Food, water, mineral supplements, and safe fencing are our highest priorities, and you allow us to provide that. Offering the public opportunities to view the wild horses and burros in their natural setting, and to learn what is happening with the mustangs on public land are also at the top of our list. Thanks to you, we are always working to create opportunities to share this magical place with even more people.

We are safe and hope that you are as well.

Best Regards,

Elizabeth Palmer
President, Wild Horse Sanctuary



Jill riding Sogno with Fancy and Flora following along.

Director Spotlight: Jill Tobia, Vice President

Jill Tobia, current Vice President of the Wild Horse Sanctuary Board of Directors, LOVES being involved at the Sanctuary. Jill began volunteering in 2007 and can't imagine what life would be like without the Sanctuary and the amazing people she's met over the years through volunteering.

Jill started helping as camp host, then as trail ride back up for Dianne, eventually started leading rides and for many years, oversaw the Sanctuary's wild horse and burro adoption program. Jill adopted three yearlings from the Sanctuary and loved every minute of gentling and starting them under saddle. Sogno Mio (my dream in Italian) and Fancy, are both 17 years old now and Flora is 16. All have proven to be solid trail mounts and wonderful ambassadors for the American

Mustang. In addition to her three, Jill fostered 11 other young mustangs, bringing them home to gentle and place in their forever homes. Jill said, "The babies were always a favorite part of my time at the Sanctuary. Watching them interact with their families and each other was fascinating. Working with them to prepare them for domestic life was so rewarding. I'm glad we achieved our goal of ending reproduction on the Sanctuary, but the memories I have of the little ones will be with me forever."

Jill worked for the Sanctuary for four years. First as a part-time bookkeeper and volunteer coordinator. Then, as Executive Director for two years, to help prepare the way for Dianne's retirement. Jill shared, "I've always enjoyed volunteering alongside Dianne, the board, interns and other volunteers and supporters. The four years I worked for the Sanctuary were incredibly special. Spending time with Dianne, learning so much about the non-profit and the history of the Sanctuary and sharing it with guests and volunteers was a dream come true."

Jill lives in Sacramento with her dogs, cats, and horses. She is a senior marketing manager for a State of California agency focused on health care. Most of her family is close by and she enjoys spending time with them hiking, picnicking, and exploring state and national parks. Jill especially enjoys it when her 9-year-old granddaughter, Fiona, comes to visit from Fort Bragg. Fiona is a natural with all animals and loves the Mustangs. Her parents are grateful that she can head to 'horse camp' several times a year for fun with grandma, and a whole slew of animals. Jill loves teaching Fiona about wild and domestic horses and helping her become a kind, confident handler, and rider. "My goal is to inspire young and old to learn more about wild horses, and specifically, the Wild Horse Sanctuary. I've already roped several friends into volunteering, and they love it! I hope someday Fiona chooses to be an intern and lifelong volunteer. That would be so cool!"

Fire Safety Measures

In 2023, the Western Shasta Resource Conservation District began a project to mitigate fire danger in Shasta County, specifically near Shingletown, Manton, Inwood, and Viola.

This spring, for almost a month, masticators and their operators worked on Sanctuary property to significantly reduce flammable brush, small trees, and dead vegetation in strategic locations to eliminate 'ladder fuels', which can cause wildfires to spread quickly and out of control. As a result of this project, the Wild Horse Sanctuary and surrounding communities are more fire safe now than in years past.

We are grateful this project was funded by grants and that it wasn't necessary for us to spend money reserved for hay, supplements, and fencing to accomplish this very important project. We are also exceptionally grateful for the timing.

As many of you know, the Park Fire seriously threatened the wellbeing of horses and humans who call the Sanctuary home. Although evacuation was mandated, we did breathe a little easier knowing that the fire mitigation effort on the Sanctuary had been completed.



How you can help

Visit our website for more information:
wildhorsesanctuary.org

Make a donation

No amount too small! Use the donation form on the back page or donate online.

Planned Giving

A gift through your will, trust, or retirement plan will help the Wild Horse Sanctuary continue to provide a safe haven for these iconic symbols of the American West.



Left to right: Salome, Matteo, Kielly

The Important Role of Interns

For many years, the Wild Horse Sanctuary has welcomed people from around the country AND the world to spend 8-10 weeks serving as summer interns. In recent years, we've hosted interns during other seasons, too.

Most of you know that we run with limited resources and adding interns allows us to extend our capabilities through increased peoplepower for daily tasks as well as gain fresh ideas and perspectives. By assisting with the Sanctuary's conservation efforts, interns help raise awareness about the plight of wild horses on public land and the importance of preserving their natural habitats. Their work supports the Sanctuary's mission to protect these magnificent beings as a living national treasure.

For the interns, their time at the Sanctuary is an opportunity for personal and professional growth. They gain invaluable hands-on experience working directly with the horses and burros learning about their care, behavior, and the complexities of managing a sanctuary. This real-world experience is not only beneficial for the interns' educational and career goals but also ensures that the horses receive the best possible care.

This summer, we had three AMAZING interns! Kelly Reeves from Southern California and Salome Richer and Matteo Mathelin from France. All three arrived in early June and contributed significantly to the daily functions at the

Sanctuary such as feeding wild and domestic horses, helping with routine veterinary visits and hoof care appointments, conditioning saddle string horses, clearing brush, and building and repairing fencing.

Matteo, Salome, Keilly along with four other volunteers worked tirelessly to install a half mile of new fencing and two gates so that the wild ones could safely enjoy the natural grasses in that area. All were so thrilled to watch close to 100 wild horses run into that space kicking up their heels!

Although each of them enjoyed the above-mentioned activities, there was one 'job' that was a favorite of all three interns: gentling and halter training young burros to prepare them for their forever homes away from the Sanctuary. Upon arrival, Keilly, Salome, and Matteo were each assigned a burro to work with for short 'training sessions' each day.

Little by little with kindness, patience, and the willingness to accept the smallest try, the team successfully accomplished what they hoped. Each burro was haltered, led, groomed, lifted their hooves for cleaning and loaded quietly into a trailer. Each began their domestic lives in their forever homes in August!

Interns and the Wild Horse Sanctuary work together in a way that is mutually beneficial and helps ensure hundreds of wild horses can live freely and safely for many years. To learn more about internship opportunities at the Wild Horse Sanctuary, please visit <https://wildhorsesanctuary.org/be-an-intern>



Kielly and Honey



Matteo, Salome and Ginger

New Fencing, New Feed Ground

The masticators used in the fire mitigation project removed brush in an area of the Sanctuary that was so overgrown, humans could hardly get to it. Once the brush was gone, a 100-year-old fence in dire need of replacement was exposed. Volunteers quickly jumped into action and cleared more space for a new road that would allow easier access

to check the perimeter fence line in that area. They drove t-posts and set four strands of smooth wire to establish a half mile of brand new, wildlife and horse safe fencing. Additionally, two new gates were installed that would allow for rotation of pasture. At the end of the project, we were able to release the wild ones into the new area, which had approximately three weeks of feed waiting for them. In three days, seven volunteers completed this job for \$8,000 less than a bid from a local contractor (whose quote was even discounted because of our non-profit status). Great work team!

Donate your unused gift cards

Do you have unused gift cards? Donate the balance to the Wild Horse Sanctuary! Visit the *How You can Help* page on our website for details.

Shop our online store

Logo t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, water bottles, tote bags, ball caps and visors available in a wide array of colors and sizes.

Volunteer

Whether you are a horse person, love outdoor projects, or like working on ranch projects, we would love to hear from you.



Wild Horses on Nevada range land.

Working Together

We applaud the efforts of all organizations responsibly advocating on behalf of America's wild horses. Each has a unique role to play in helping to solve the decades-long problem of managing horses on public land and addressing the mistreatment of horses and burros who call that land home.

The Wild Horse Sanctuary specializes in providing visitors with the opportunity to see first-hand that wild horses and burros can coexist on open range in ecological balance with many species of wildlife. The Sanctuary also serves as a model for the responsible management of wild horses and burros in their natural habitat.

Other organizations are advocating in different ways. American Wild Horse Conservation (AWHC) is a group that provides educational material in the way of research findings and legislative updates and takes legal action on behalf of wild horses on U.S. public land.

In this newsletter, we're highlighting Myths and Facts About the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wild Horse and Burro Program provided by the AWHC.

Myth: Wild Horses are overrunning and ruining the range.

Fact: Wild horses are present on just 17% of BLM range-lands, where they are still vastly outnumbered by livestock.

Wild horses are not present on more than 80% of range-lands, which makes the claim that they are overrunning the range preposterous. Moreover, according to the BLM, less than 25% of available forage within Herd Management Areas (HMAs) is allocated to wild horses. More than 75% is allocated to livestock.

Myth: Wild horses are a feral, invasive, non-native species.

Fact: Wild horses are a native reintroduced species.

Wild horses evolved on this continent, and their disappearance less than 10,000 years ago is a mere blip on the evolutionary scale of time. They migrated across the land bridge to Asia, where they thrived, were domesticated, and reintroduced to the Americas by the Spanish in the 1500's. The fact that the horses that were re-introduced came from domestic stock is scientifically irrelevant. "Feral" describes a species relationship to humans; it has no biological significance.

For more "Myths and Facts" and additional detail about each, visit <https://americanwildhorse.org/resources> and scroll to Fact Sheets, Overview: Myths and Facts.

We encourage you to learn more about issues surrounding wild horses and burros, how your tax dollars are being used by the BLM to 'manage' them, and ways you can make your voice heard! We appreciate how your support of the Sanctuary allows us to continue our mission and achieve our goals.

Come for a visit! The Wild Horse Sanctuary is one of the only places you can take a free docent led tour to view horses and burros living as nature intended; wild and free!



P.O. Box 30, Shingletown, CA 96088



info@wildhorsesanctuary.org



www.wildhorsesanctuary.org



530-474-5770

501(c)(3) Tax ID 95-3611770

Wild Horse Sanctuary Contribution and Order Form

Yes, I want to help!

Enclosed is a check for:

- ☐ \$50 to feed one unsponsored horse for one month
- ☐ \$150 to feed one unsponsored horse for three months
- ☐ \$600 to feed one unsponsored horse for a full year
- ☐ \$110 for one mineral supplement tub
- ☐ \$55 for one dewormer block
- ☐ \$18 for each calendar (includes S&H)

Contributions are tax deductible #95-3611770

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Email

Phone



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



Online: Donate or purchase merchandise at
www.wildhorsesanctuary.org

0924

Protecting and Preserving Freedom for America's Wild Horses