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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As the numbers of deaths of wild horse foals captured during the Triple B wild horse “gather” currently under way in Nevada increases, disturbing photographic evidence of abuse of the foals has been uncovered. A “Gather” is the BLM’s euphemism for a wild horse roundup.

The photos come not from public observers witnessing the roundups but from the BLM itself and appear to have a connection to a video montage covering what transpired from August 4 – 6th taken by Deniz Bobol of AWHPC. The video clearly showed foals being pushed, kicked, shoved, wrestled and manhandled by the employees of the BLM’s contractor Sun J during trailer loading. The footage taken by Deniz Bobol for AWHPC and ASPCA shows the abusive trailer loading as well as the aggressive roping of an exhausted foal after being chased by five mounted “wranglers”. That documented abuse of foals is now joined by BLM’s own photograph taken on August 5, 2011 by BLM Nevada and posted on their Flickr page. Flickr is a photo sharing page on the internet. *Photo by BLM/ Nevada*



The photograph clearly shows a foal separated in a pen at the holding corrals being hung by his neck, tied high on the top rail of the corrals. A wrangler can be seen outside the pen gate, where he appears to be

waiting for the foal to be “readied for loading onto the trailer” although the caption reads “Foal at holding corral separated for travel.”



“This foal in addition to having been galloped to the point of exhaustion, (and possibly one of the many foals retrieved from the range after being chased and roped by wranglers) and now is tied high by his neck isolated in a pen. As you look closely at the photograph you see an example of not only inhumane treatment but physical abuse. The foal’s eyes are wide and the photograph under close inspection shows the rope in a location that appears to be cutting off the foals’ air passages,” commented Maureen VanDerStad of Grass Roots Horse. “And this is not the only photo by BLM Nevada that shows violations.”

“It is the responsibility of the Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) to assure the humane treatment and handling of the wild horses during all phases of the capture operations and to ensure that the contractor fulfills their contractual obligations. This treatment is in violation of not only the above but of the 1971 Free Roaming Wild Horse and Burro Act, the Federal Code and Standard Operating procedures.

The COR/PI’s need to do their assigned jobs in a conscientious manner and we have the right to demand they do so. There is a great deal at stake.”

Bruce Thompson, Wild Horse and Burro Specialist is the COR/PI (Project Inspector) for the Elko, NV portion of Triple B wild horse roundup and he can be contacted at 775-753-0286. He reports to the Elko District Manager, Ken Miller regarding his responsibilities as COR/PI and he can be reached at 775-753-0200.

Ruth Thompson, is the COR/PI for the Ely, NV portion of Triple B wild horse roundup and she can be reached at 775-289-1800. She reports to Ely District manager, Gary Medlyn regarding her responsibilities as COR/PI and he can be reached at 775-289-1800

Dean Bolstad is the Wild Horse and Burro Program Acting Director and he can be reached at 775-861-6583.

Please contact your congress people and ask that this roundup be stopped immediately and that a moratorium be placed on all wild horse and burro roundups until the necessary investigations into this program and this contractor’s personnel be conducted by an impartial and independent review team.

Link to AWHPC and ASPCA video taken by Deniz Bobol

<http://www.wildhorsepreservation.org/news/2011/08/08/aspca-wild-horse-coalition-release-video-documenting-blm%e2%80%99s-inhumane-treatment-of-young-foals-in-nevada-wild-horse-roundup/>

BLM’s photostream at Flickr can be seen at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/blmnevada/collections/72157627171368248/>

Location of photo in question <http://www.flickr.com/photos/blmnevada/sets/72157627363647632/>

Information on public use of BLM’s digital photographs <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/bpd.html>

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