WCRO Fall 1985

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WILDLIFE REFUGES: A National Disgrace

National wildlife refuges: places of shelter and safety for America's wildlife, right? Wrong!

Wildlife is being sold out for economic gain and recreation for hunters, trappers, and commercial developers, as are the refuges set aside to protect it.

Currently, there are 424 refuges, composed of more than 88 million acres, stretching from the Arctic to the Florida Keys, and from Maine to American Samoa. Almost all of the refuges have been touched in some way by gas and oil exploration and by development, predator control, pesticides, commercial farming, ranching, and lumber interests. And, as incredible as it may seem, over one-half of all refuges are open to hunting or trapping, or both.

All laws and regulations governing activities on wildlife refuges stipulate there be no conflict with the fundamental principle of refuges: to protect, preserve, and enhance wildlife in its environment. Unfortunately, what was once a network of "inviolate sanctuaries" is changing into a federal system of playgrounds where wildlife and the integrity of true refuges are being destroyed. For thousands of other animals whose habitats are being invaded, the refuges have become dens of noise, suffering, and death.

In 1982, over 386,329 animals were killed by hunters on this nation's wildlife refuges. The figure includes 219 swans and 227,574 ducks. Among the 85,473 mammals killed were bobcats, mountain goats, bighorn sheep, and tiny Sika deer. About 12,000 animals were crippled and left to die from injury, exposure, or starvation. And from (continued on page 2)

Thousands of animals, like this deer, die slow, agonizing deaths caused by hunters in wildlife refuges each year.

INSIDE
- Research—Animal Dealer Sentenced
- A Bad Plan for Wild Horses
- Regional Staff Has Busy Schedule

Project WILD Update

In our last newsletter (Spring 1985), we reported on HSUS' opposition to the Project WILD teaching materials. Since then, two legislative subcommittee hearings and a state board of education hearing have been held in California.

The WCRO sent an Action Alert to humane societies and interested people, visited committee members, supplied them with background materials, and testified at all three hearings with other representatives of the humane community. John Hoyt, HSUS president, and Patty Finch, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Humane Education (NAAHE), submitted written testimony.

The outcome was positive. Project WILD staff and policymakers were directed to review the testimony and give serious consideration to the need for changes.

It is now clear, however, that although Project WILD materials are reviewed and reprinted yearly, the forthcoming revised edition only removes the most obvious forms of bias. After discussing the revisions with the national director of Project WILD, NAAHE Director Patty Finch stated, "Project WILD, even when revised, will remain biased and inaccurate....The Project WILD coordinators and facilitators will continue to promote the materials as objective."

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP
Contact your state association of school boards (your state department of education can give you their address) and express your concern. State that Project WILD ma-
(continued on page 2)
BLM Plan Spells Disaster for Captured Horses

As if America’s wild horses didn’t face enough problems already, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) now has proposed a plan for handling the horses it captures. The plan, under discussion with the Mexican organization known as Asociacion de Animales marginados en America Latina (A.A.M.A.), is to place several thousand wild horses in individual Charro homes through the Adopt-A-Horse Program. The HSUS is unalterably opposed to the proposed adoption because the horses will be used in rodeo-type competitions sponsored by Charros association. Some also may be used in bullfighting exhibitions and for other unspecified purposes. These events will subject the wild horses to grave risks of injury and cruelties inherent in such exhibitions.

Our strong protest to Secretary of the Interior Donald Hodel elicited a reply that the plan is still under review and a decision would soon be made. More protest urged by HSUS will be needed to stop the invasion. Field Investigator Eric Sakach describes as “a hair-brained scheme that would place magnificent animals in a situation to be treated as livestock by humans and no control over their fate.”


Fast Pace for Regional Staff

In May, WCRO Director Char Drennon was guest speaker at the annual Santa Rosa Junior College, College of the National Animal Control Association (NACA) in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her workshop, “Adoption Management,” created a buzz among the attendees to discuss the responsibilities of the Animal Control Impose Requirements?” dealt with the responsibilities of municipal animal-control agencies to develop adoption standards that will help solve animal problems in the community. Keisler’s response was that municipalities and animal-control agencies cannot impose quality adoption standards, “said Drennon.

In April, WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach was guest speaker at the 15th Annual Meeting and Training Conference of the California Animal Control Directors’ Association in Santa Rosa, California. Sakach’s talk was on illegal cockfighting and the subject of a seminar for deputies and animal-control officers held by the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department. He provided evidence that the City of Hope receives unconditional, unreserved, irrevocable, unlimited, and non-exclusive license. He was fined $114,000, and he agreed never again to work in any capacity in California. Keisler was injured in an apparent robbery.

Later, he was tried on criminal charges of animal cruelty and sentence to six months in the county jail, a $2,000 fine, and three years of probation.

The County of San Joaquin also filed a civil suit against Knudsen for cruelty and for using animals in rodeo-type competitions sponsored by Charros association. The HSUS believes the HSUS is unalterably opposed to the proposed adoption because the horses will be used in rodeo-type competitions sponsored by Charros association. Some also may be used in bullfighting exhibitions and for other unspecified purposes. These events will subject the wild horses to grave risks of injury and cruelties inherent in such exhibitions.

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IN MEMORY…

During the last week of June, Char Drennon passed away in her sleep. In 1993 she was a founder of the Humane Society of the Willamette Valley, a Decatur, Illinois native who had a love for horses and animals and a strong passion to help animals. Today the HSUS is a leader in the animal welfare movement, fighting for the rights of all animals.

Drennon had the sad honor of presenting the final report of the California State Humane Officers’ Association at the 2020 meeting of the Southern California District of the Humane Society of America. She will be sorely missed as a leader in the animal welfare movement, fighting for the rights of all animals.

Around The Region

BECKLEY/OAKLAND, CALIF. — WCRO recently completed in-depth evaluations of the shelter facilities and operations at the Oakland Department of Animal Control and the Oakland SPCA. Following unannounced inspections, a companion report was written with findings for improvements was forwarded to each agency.

ARROYO GRANDE, CALIF. — After receiving a settlement and penalty from the County of Santa Barbara for an animal welfare violation, WCRO wrote the Monterey County Sheriff of the Willamette Valley, a Decatur, Illinois native who had a love for horses and animals and a strong passion to help animals. Today the HSUS is a leader in the animal welfare movement, fighting for the rights of all animals.

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**Legislative Update**

**CALIFORNIA**

New animal-protection laws recently enacted include:

- SB 89 — establishes new rules on gill and trammel nets that will save sea otters from accidental drowning.
- AB 719 — calls for endangered species check-off funds to be used for additional programs, not to pay for existing ones.

Here is an update on some bills now before the legislature:

Prospects for passage of SB 76, the mountain lion bill are not good. Even as more weakening amendments were being attached to the bill, Governor George Deukmejian announced he would veto any moratorium on the killing of mountain lions, stating they should be treated “like any other game animal.”

WCRO helped write AB 1810, authored by Wally Herger. It calls for California state humane officers to be trained.

AB 1663, authored by Robert Campbell, would require a spay/neuter deposit on all dogs leaving California animal shelters.

Sam Farr’s bill, AB 1620, would raise permit fees and the number of inspections for performing animals.

David Roberts’s bill, SB 1405, would allow humane officers access to animal-research laboratories to check for compliance with state and federal laws. This is a two-year bill, as is AB 1628, authored by Norm Waters, allowing an income tax credit for spaying or neutering a dog or cat.

For more detailed information on California legislation, members are invited to contact our office. If you want a copy of a bill or a new law, please write Bill Room, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

**OREGON**

Three of four bills The HSUS WCRO and our Oregon members worked on have been signed into law by the governor. They are:

- SB 508 — completely revises the current animal-cruelty laws, defines the crimes of animal neglect and animal abuse in the first and second degrees, and the crime of animal abandonment. It also provides for forfeiture of animals in the custody of a person convicted of any of these crimes.
- SB 509 — defines exotic animals and requires anyone owning such an animal to obtain a state permit. It requires any person that owns an exotic animal to be responsible for all costs incurred if the animal escapes. It also provides penalties for failure to obtain a license and for forfeiture of animals when license requirements cannot be met. (This legislation arose in part from the arrest of Robert Fieber, owner of Siletz Game Ranch, detailed in the Spring 1985 issue of the West Coast Report.)
- SB 911 — prohibits euthanasia of animals except by injection of sodium pentobarbital or other substances approved by the State Veterinary Medical Examining Board. It also classifies violation as a Class C misdemeanor.

Unfortunately, SB 303, which would have increased penalties for animal fighting, died in committee.

**MONTANA**

Announcing a big victory for animals in Montana! The WCRO is receiving letters of thanks for its assistance in helping to pass HB 155 which makes both cockfighting and dogfighting felony offenses in that state. The new law takes effect on October 1, 1985, and provides for a penalty of up to $5,000 and up to five years imprisonment for violators.

**Reflect for a moment…**

How can I help animals even when I no longer share their world?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States. Your will can provide for animals after you’re gone.

Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the Society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material which will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to:

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City ____________________________ State __________
ZIP code __________________________

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/General Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037.

The Regional Report is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States West Coast Regional Office 1713 J Street, Suite 211 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 447-3209 Charlene Drennon, Director

The HSUS West Coast Regional Office serves California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington. All contributions made to The HSUS West Coast Regional Office will be used for regional purposes and are tax-deductible.