

R.T. Fitch Statement to BLM Advisory Board – 3/11/2011

My name is R.T. Fitch; my wife and I have traveled here at our own expense, just like the roomful of people behind me, to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Besides being a hard working American who more than pays his fair share of taxes I also voluntarily sit on the board of Directors for Habitat for Horses. Likewise, I serve as the volunteer Executive Director of Habitat for Horses Advisory Council. Although my name may not be familiar to you the name of Habitat for Horses should ring a bell as you spoke of us, yesterday, as we are involved in legal litigation against the BLM over the outrageous practice of zeroing out long standing wild horse herds.

It's a matter of public record that our legal hook is that the BLM uses bad data, poor math and junk science and I personally, and respectfully, have to thank the BLM for proving our case, yesterday, with web cast presentations of arbitrary figures, unsubstantiated numbers, with rumor and conjecture used as a basis to set forth policy and procedures.

But there was one good and welcome number that was thrown out, one that America should rejoice in, at least for the short term, and that is the fact that the agency is broke and cannot afford to fund the deadly and unnecessary roundups of our national icons during the remainder of fiscal year 2011.

That's why we are here, we want the roundups to stop, to cease as you have already proven that the system is broken and does not work.

So on the surface it appears that we may be gaining, by default, a portion of what we are collectively asking for but the question remaining is... the BLM going to take advantage of this breather, will the BLM seize the moment and partner with the professionals and experts who have volunteered to assist with taking an accurate accounting of what is really left on the range and how many horses we actually have in holding? Will the BLM work with a consortium of qualified organizations in formulating a humane and workable management plan?

I don't know, it would seem to a logical mind that would be the thing to do. As an advisory board it would, likewise, appear that there would be an opportunity for

dialogue on the issue. It is also obvious that the ball is in your court and the eyes of taxpaying Americans are on you to make the proper recommendations.

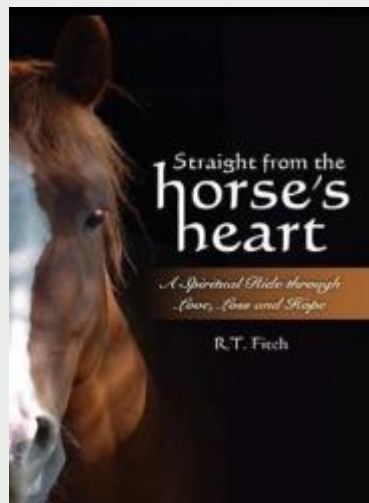
But respectfully allow me to be perfectly clear; besides the people who are present in this room and the thousands who are viewing this webcast there is a ground swell of discontent growing amongst the American public that we have had enough of the waste, the pain, the suffering and the ignorance...we want the roundups to stop, permanently.

You have the ball, for the sake of the horses and burros, please, don't drop it.

Thank you.



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