



International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros

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**International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros
Files Lawsuit Against United States Forest Service to
Save Alpine Wild Horses in Apache-Sitgreaves Forest
Protecting them under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971**

Rapid City, SD – The International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros, the oldest wild horse and burro organization in the United States and the instrumental force in moving Congress to provide permanent protection of all wild horses and burros on public lands in 1971, retained the FR Law Group to represent the organization in its pursuit to stop the roundup of wild horses in the Alpine Forest District.

The action was filed in court today in Phoenix, Arizona where the organization was based for many years. The lawsuit is alleging multiple violations of federal law as the U.S. Forest Service once again seeks to capture and permanently removes horses from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in northern Arizona where the horses have resided for over 100 years.

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 was designed to protect and preserve wild horses and burros from “capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, an integral part of the natural system of public lands.”

The FS is claiming that these horses are not wild and free-roaming but “unauthorized” livestock, stripping them significantly of their legal protections and making it more convenient for them to rid public lands of these historic wild horses.

“The very Agencies tasked with protecting these horses, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, continue to defy the 1971 law as they remove wild horses and burros without monitoring the landscape to determine who really is damaging the lands. This must stop, and this is our first action of many to come,” says ISPMB president Karen Sussman. Sussman will also be submitting a report to congress next week documenting the failures of these agencies.

The lawsuit alleges violations of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, and the Administrative Procedures Act. It also seeks a declaration that the unbranded, unclaimed horses living in the Apache National Forest are wild free-roaming horses entitled to protection under the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

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