



The sacred horse is our medicine and continues to help us survive many hardships. Therefore, they must be given respect and honored for their sacred place within the Creation. All horses are sacred and possess the same fundamental right to Life as we, Five Finger Ones, do.

The **Dine' For Wildhorses** campaign started in 2013, in response to the Navajo Nation Tribal Government resolution to round-up horses across the Dine' Homelands. This round-up initiated by the Navajo Nation (NN) created a division among families and friends as they took sides on this controversial issue. As traditional Dine' peoples we recognized that this round-up caused disharmony within our relationships with each other, the sacred horse and all Creation. The NN government in alliance with the US Department of Interior (DOI) attempted to exert authority over the Dine' way of life and the Creator's Natural Law and did not properly consult with the Dine' Peoples in order to attain our free, prior and informed consent as outlined by law.

“The policies and procedures in place today do not recognize or respect the sacredness of all life, this creates an environment for the inhumane treatment of horses and all living elements”

Former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson reached out to the Navajo Nation Tribal Government in an effort to save the wild horses. A round table discussion was held with newly elected Navajo Nation President Russell Begay in May, 2015. The traditionalists were included in this discussion and no agreement has been reached yet. There will be another meeting coming up soon.

Peaceful solutions are embedded in our original lifeway as Dine'.



So we, traditional Dine', carrying this knowledge stepped up for our children, from yesterday, today and into the future to promote peace and healing on both sides. We decided to re-establish an old cultural horse project, we call it **Dine' For Wild Horses and Seminars** to help heal the wounds created by the round-ups. The **Dine' Colt/Horse Gentling Seminar** is part of this project and we have scheduled seminars throughout Dine' territories since August 2014. This year we have been going non-stop every weekend since April 2015. We are also looking forward to the Spring, Summer, and fall of 2016 yet to be scheduled.



“We have to go back into our spiritual foundations to respect and appreciate the source of healing that horses have to share with us.”

Our aim is to save every horse so we are in need to find partners and supporters that share this same passion for the horses. Saving some horses would mean finding pastures for them, others could be used for therapy or cultural teachings. We believe that wild horses have a lot to teach us if we can bring ourselves back to that place of respect for them rather than looking at them as a nuisance or problem. The horses are not the problem. We are the problem, how we are treating them and viewing them with non-indigenous eyes and mind is the problem. Returning to our Indigenous Foundation and Belief we see the horse as a powerful teacher, healer and leader.

The Gentling seminar consists of colts and horses whose owners have never been able to saddle or ride them. They are gentled within hours, are horse trailer trained and taken home with happy owners. We get about 6 to 8 horses a day during the community scheduled seminars. We also train individuals who want to become horse trainers. Most of those apprentices that prevail by sticking with the training become part of the team. Our mission is to have younger trainees become trained. We also do seminars for therapy, where an individual is afraid to get back on the horse or vice-versa. This therapy healing works with individuals having suicidal thoughts, alcohol/drug abuse, and domestic violence. Our program also helps heal veterans with PTSD and assists children on the autism spectrum. Additionally, this program can promote family and language preservation.

Conducting the community colt/horse gentling seminars is a free event with materials used being donated or bought by us. Our most critical needs to carry out these seminars are: funding for gas, food, and lodging. Future needs include: saddle and tack, portable corral panels, heavy duty pickup trucks, horse stock trailer, flatbed trailers, office trailers and travel car (SUV). We have compiled a listing of additional miscellaneous items needed, which is available upon request.

Your support of **Dine' For Wild Horses & Seminars** will ensure that our Dine' horse culture will live on for our future generations. Please visit our Facebook page "**Dine' For Wild Horses & Seminars**" to view pictures and videos from previous colt/horse gentling seminars. For further information, please feel free to contact me, Leland Grass at (928) 429-1504 or via email at sacred4s@hotmail.com.