



?Elegesi Qiyus Wild Horse Preserve Declaration

Let it be known as of June 6th, 2002.

We the Tsilhqot'in people of Xení, known as the Xení Gwet'in First Nations Government, declare the following in accordance with the Nemiah Aboriginal Wilderness Preserve Declaration:

1. The traditional relationship between the Xení Gwet'in and wild horses shall continue, and the Xení Gwet'in First Nations Government, while recognizing and affirming the rights and traditional practices of other members of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, shall be the authority and steward on all matters concerning wild horses within the lands delineated by the Nemiah Aboriginal Wilderness Preserve Declaration, which is hereby declared the ?Elegesi Qiyus Wild Horse Preserve.
2. The ?Elegesi Qiyus Wild Horse Preserve shall, subject to the Nemiah Aboriginal Wilderness Preserve Declaration and the exercise of traditional Tsilhqot'in practices, be protected from human related disturbance.
3. Wild horses are sensitive to disruption of the natural environment and their preservation and security requires protection of their habitat; therefore, disruption of the environment, including flora and fauna, in the ?Elegesi Qiyus Wild Horse Preserve, is prohibited unless authorized or consented to by the Xení Gwet'in First Nations Government.

?Elegesi is the Tsilhqot'in name for Eagle Lake Henry, and Qiyus is Tsilhqot'in for cayuse. Eagle Lake Henry is the English language name for a well known Tsilhqot'in forebear of many Xení Gwet'in. He ranched extensively in and around the Brittany Triangle. Cayuse is the word for horse, or mustang, derived from the name of a now vanished tribe of natives who inhabited the present day north west United States. See www.fonv.ca for more information on this important community initiative.