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**(Nev.)-Horse Advocates Fear Slaughter Of Free-Roaming Mustangs**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 01/04/2013 11:25 AM

RENO, Nev. (AP) - State agriculture officials are exploring ways to muster support for slaughtering stray horses in Nevada and the discussions are stirring protests among advocates for the free roaming animals.

Wild horse protection advocates plan a rally at the state Capitol on Friday to urge Gov. Brian Sandoval to call off next week's scheduled auction of 41 wild mustangs they fear will end up at the slaughterhouse.

Hidden Valley Wild Horse Protection Fund Director Carrol Able says she's especially concerned about newly disclosed state records that show members of the Nevada Board of Agriculture have discussed ways to build public support for slaughtering stray horses in the foothills near Virginia City.

One board member suggested they might avoid some regulatory roadblocks by placing any new slaughterhouse on U.S. tribal lands.