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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

November 18, 2011

Garfield County, Colorado: On November 1st, 2011 the Garfield County Sheriff's Office Animal Control Deputy was notified by the United States Forest Service of several underfed, possibly sick, horses at the Budge's Flattops Wilderness Lodge, which is located at Forest Service Road 600, Gypsum, 81637. After further investigation by Animal Control Deputies, it was determined that the animals were being neglected by the owner of the lodge, Larry Gene Parks. A representative from the United States Forest Service went to the ranch and took several pictures of the neglected horses and provided the photos to law enforcement. The pictures supported the claims of neglect and animal cruelty.

On November 8th, 2011 the Eagle County Sheriff's Office was contacted by the State of Colorado Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Protections, who reported potential neglected horses at 14533 Highway 6, Gypsum, Colorado. This report stemmed from a connected investigation in Garfield County.

Upon contacting the property care taker at 14533 Highway 6, Gypsum, it was determined that the horse in question of neglect, belonged to Larry Parks, age 63, and that the property care taker was allowing the horses on the property, in order to feed them.

On November 10th, 2011, Garfield County Sheriff's Office Animal Control deputies obtained a warrant for Larry Gene Parks charging him with Cruelty to Animals. At that time, the Eagle County Sheriff's Office, along with the State of Colorado Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Protections executed a search warrant for the property located in Gypsum. The search resulted in two of the horses being seized for treatment and one treated in the field. The rest of the horses were removed from the Budge's Flattops Wilderness Lodge and are currently in the care of Larry Gene Parks.

Parks was taken into custody on November 14th, 2011 by Garfield County Sheriff's Deputies and served a summons for three counts of Misdemeanor Animal Cruelty by Eagle County Deputies. Parks immediately posted bonded with a \$2,500 cash surety. Parks is scheduled to appear before a judge on November 30, 2011.

No further information will be released at this time. This case has been filed with the District Attorneys office.

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