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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Spring Mountain/Wheeler Pass is a wonderful place for all visitors to Las Vegas to go see our wild horses. Pretty much the rest of the herds have been zeroed out. I believe your AML of 47 -66 is low, & this range should be able to support many more than that. Your Current Population of 335 to 402 I believe is a very high count, as usual by your agencies.

The AML of 26 horses for the Cold Creek area is just absurd, and this is not a genetically viable herd amount.

I don't believe the horses in the Cold Creek area, need to be rounded up via helicopter. I would like to go on record stating that bait trapping would be a better & more humane way to gather, if they are to be gathered. You could put a trap by the big pond full of hay & get probably every horse on the mountain to come into the trap, where the mares could then be given a dose of PZP, then released back on to the range. Volunteers could track them & deliver the second dose as should be done. I believe on the range management could be better utilized than helicopter roundups.

I also believe that all the older mares & stallions, be returned if gathered, as they are the teachers to the rest of the herd, as to where water is, where to graze during different times of the years, manners, right of way & they keep the younger stallions from just breeding with every mare. They are the wise ones & deserve to live their lives freely where they have lived for years.

I don't think they need to be gathered at all though, as right now your holding facilities have more wild horses in them, than are out on the range in 10 Western States, and your adoption program is at an all time low. Why just keep stockpiling the wild horses, when they are fine on the range, at a huge expense to taxpayers. Why don't we utilize them as tourist attractions, to our wonderful State. The whole draw to Cold Creek is the Wild Horses, who not only are majestic against the peaks & range of the area, but are a great addition to keeping wild fires at bay, as their grazing helps with keeping the cheat grass down. There is a wonderful mix of horses, elk, mule deer, Jack Rabbits, cottontails, hawks. Where else this close to Las Vegas can this mix be found & observed. It also provides a great place for UNLV students to learn about the ecology & to study the wild horse behaviors.

I believe with the use of PZP, the population can be managed on the range, & if done correctly, will work. There are no sheep or cattle grazing these ranges, so there is really no reason for a roundup, especially by helicopter, which not only disturbs & frightens the horses, but it also does the same for other wildlife. Also the residents of Cold Creek are disturbed by the closure of the road in & out of their village, while the roundup is going on.

I also am disturbed by the large amount of water you state the horses drink, & the statements that they degrade the streams & waterholes. I have been documenting them for almost 5 years now, & if you would just get out on the range & watch them, they don't ruin the streams, they don't ruin the ponds. They come, they drink & they leave, sometimes in less than 8 minutes. They are not like the cattle, that stay at the waterhole until it is dry. I have spent many of 8 to 9 hour days, with bands that have never even gone close to the water in that 8 or 9 hour time period.

Thank you for your time,  
Darcy Grizzle

