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Comments: Gentlemen:

I know you are receiving a significant amount of correspondence regarding proposed wild horse round ups. Most of this correspondence will be about the cruelty, necessity and other proposed methods of population control of the wild horses. I wish to propose a different method of reasoning for retaining the wild horse herds on the wild lands of Nevada and specifically in the area of Cold Creek. The wild horses of Cold Creek should be considered a natural resource of tourism. Since the Cold Creek area is not in competition with cattle ranchers and has ready access from main roads, a significant number of Las Vegas locals and tourists make the drive to Cold Creek just to see the horses in the wild. I can observe Camp Bonanza Rd. from my house and watch daily as people drive up to the end of the pavement and often further, get out of their cars and just stand and watch the horses in the area. Often I see them taking photographs. We can tell they are tourists by the car plates. I may see 20 or more vehicles a day which probably represents about half the total as many do not venture past the pond area since it is an excellent viewing area. I have often wondered why there are no organized tours of the area.

In addition to potential tourism revenue I also see the wild horses as a national resource in that they represent the Western Heritage of the U.S. This is evidenced in the interest shown in Madeline Pickens' sanctuary by foreign tourists. The horse has helped build this country from the Spanish explorers to Native Americans. I find it odd that our government goes to great lengths to preserve historical settings be they geographical, architectural, social or political, but sees the animal that helped tame the West and a part of this history as a nuisance. I have talked to tourists from other countries that are here to see a part of the Old West as they know it. Most of their knowledge comes from John Wayne movies and the so-called Spaghetti Westerns.

For their historical significance alone the wild horses should be preserved.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views.