

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/16/2013 1:39:43 AM

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Comments: 1. Ecological studies since 1948 have all shown that a natural population that is decimated will increase many times more rapidly than one that has begun to fill its ecological niche. As soon as a roundup of a large percentage of wild horses and burros takes place, the natural population will do its best to fill the ecological void that has been created. These facts were also outlined in the National Academy of Sciences study 2013 Publication ISBN 978-0-309-26494-5, Using Science to Improve the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program: A Way Forward which BLM paid \$1.5 million to have done. A more logical approach would be to remove a few small bands of horses every year by using bait trapping methods or using various birth control methods to slow population growth. Helicopter roundups will simply encourage rapid population increases.

2. I was told at the meeting held in Cold Creek that the horses were "starving and eating Joshua trees" by your ecologist. I have since carefully observed the horses and found none that are starving. I have determined that perhaps the horses did eat the Joshua tree seeds which are common this time of year. Further, it is absurd to even make such a statement since a horse is nomadic and can travel great distances in search of food. Bands in Cold Creek have started to feed further down the mountain, reaching Rattlesnake Mountain. However, that means they still could travel many miles to H95 which they would certainly do if they were "starving".

3. Since science does not support your approach of massive roundups by helicopter, there must be an ulterior motive. If not, then why continue helicopter roundups when more scientific approaches are available?

4. I have been told by many long time advocates that comments are simply a waste of time and will not be taken seriously. USFS and BLM have already made their decision and are just providing lip-service to citizens. I must say that was my general impression from the meeting I attended in Cold Creek. We certainly hope that is not the case.