

Nellis

G 7-28-97



# United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management  
Las Vegas District Office  
4765 Vegas Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89108

July 28, 1997

Ms. Catherine Barcomb  
Commission for the  
Preservation of Wild Horses  
1105 Terminal Way, Suite 209  
Reno, Nevada 89502

Dear Cathy,

Enclosed are updated reports for our recent NWHR gather. I and Gary went over his field notes and reports on numbers. You will find corrected breakdown report that identifies potential 580 animals on the range (incorporates 54 pregnant mares that will birth babies). The figures on the breakdown also give mares to stud numbers/ratio.

Also enclosed is Dr. Hartgrove's euthanasia examination reports.

If you have any questions, please call Gary at (702) 256-1580 or me at 647-

5060. Thanks

Sincerely,

M. Dan Morgan  
Assistant District Manager,  
Division of Renewable

I hope this

NELLIS GATHER DAILY SUMMARY

| DATE       | GATHERED |       |        |       | BURROS |   | MULES |   | E. PEN |   | PUT DOWN |            | SHIP TO PVC |    |    |     | NOTES   |
|------------|----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---|-------|---|--------|---|----------|------------|-------------|----|----|-----|---|
|            | TOTAL    | STUDS | MARE S | FOALS | M      | F | M     | F | S      | M | EUTH     | EMERG/DIED | S           | M  | F  | TOT |   |
|            |          |       |        |       |        |   |       |   |        |   |          |            |             |    |    |     |   |
| Sat. 6/14  | 27       | 15    | 9      | 3     |        |   |       |   | 1      |   |          |            |             |    |    |     |   |
| Sun. 6/15  | 55       | 23    | 24     | 8     |        |   |       |   | 6      |   |          |            |             |    |    |     | one stud found dead in corral of apparant heart attack One foal shipped to Vegas for care by NWAHA Helicopter grounded-mechanical problem |
| Mon 6/160  | 0        |       |        |       |        |   |       |   |        |   |          |            |             |    |    |     | Helicopter grounded-mechanical problem  |
| Tues. 6/17 | 0        |       |        |       |        |   |       |   |        |   |          |            |             |    |    |     | Helicopter grounded-mechanical problem  |
| Wed 6/18   | 0        |       |        |       |        |   |       |   |        |   | 1        |            | 16          | 13 | 29 |     | 29 shipped to Palomino Valley: 16 studs; 13 mares. 1 stud died in holding facility.   |

| DATE        | GATHERED |       |        |       | BURROS |   | MULES |   | E. PEN |   | PUT DOWN |            | SHIP TO PVC |   |   |     | NOTES |   |
|-------------|----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---|-------|---|--------|---|----------|------------|-------------|---|---|-----|-------|---|
|             | TOTAL    | STUDS | MARE S | FOALS | M      | F | M     | F | S      | M | EUTH     | EMERG/DIED | S           | M | F | TOT |       |   |
|             |          |       |        |       |        |   |       |   |        |   |          |            |             |   |   |     |       |   |
| Thurs. 6/19 | 45       | 18    | 19     | 8     |        |   |       |   | 3      |   | 9        | 1          |             |   |   |     |       | Vet examined 10 penned horses. Determined that 9 would be euthanized for humane reasons, blindness and bad teeth causing slow starvation and other ailments. Autopsy on 9 horses confirmed e. decisions. 1 of e. penned horses was kept (one bad eye) and will be shipped to PVC sanctuary. Vet will be submitting examination report next week. WH spec. McFadden revised euthanasia projection noting there will be higher incidence of e. horses from 500 ungathered horses in January. He projected 10 percent, or 50 of these will likely meet e. criteria. Original projection of 25 for current gather plus additional 50 total to the new 75 e. projection. McFadden confirmed 29 horses were shipped and received by the PVC on 6/18. 1 stud died in holding facility. |
|             |          |       |        |       |        |   |       |   | TOT 10 |   |          |            |             |   |   |     |       |   |
| Fri. 6/20   | 63       | 33    | 22     | 8     |        |   |       |   |        |   |          | 2          |             |   |   |     |       | 1 mare broke neck and 1 foal died (buried)  |
| Sat. 6/21   | 133      | 59    | 58     | 16    |        |   |       |   |        |   |          |            | 31          |   |   | 31  |       | Shipped 31 studs to PVC.  |
| Sun 6/22    | 27       | 11    | 11     | 5     |        |   |       |   | 15     |   |          | 1          |             |   |   |     |       | Finished @ Kawich and set-up trap @ Cactus for gather on 6/23. 1 foal died at holding facility.   |
| Mon. 6/23   | 112      | 70    | 33     | 9     |        |   |       |   |        |   |          |            | 37          |   |   | 37  |       | Vet will examine horses in e. pen on Thurs, 6/26 for e. decision.. Shipped 37 studs to PVC..  |

| DATE      | GATHERED |       |        |       | BURROS |   | MULES |   | E PEN  |   | PUT DOWN |            | SHIP TO PVC |    |   |     | NOTES   |
|-----------|----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---|-------|---|--------|---|----------|------------|-------------|----|---|-----|---|
|           | TOTAL    | STUDS | MARE S | FOALS | M      | F | M     | F | S      | M | EUTH     | EMERG/DIED | S           | M  | F | TOT |   |
|           |          |       |        |       |        |   |       |   |        |   |          |            |             |    |   |     |   |
| Tues 6/24 | 70       | 33    | 29     | 8     |        |   |       |   | 3      |   | 1        |            | 37          |    |   | 37  | Pulled trap at Cactus. On 6/25, set-up traps @ Stonewall and will begin gathering on Thursday. 1 mare crippled/dying put down on range by ASI for humane reasons. Shipped 37 studs to PVC.  |
| Wed. 6/25 | 0        |       |        |       |        |   |       |   |        |   |          |            | 47          | 24 |   | 71  | 71 horses shipped (2 loads; 47 studs/24 mares). Gather resumes @ Stonewall Thurs, 6/26. Vet examining horses in e. pen Thurs afternoon, 6/26.   |
| Thr 6/26  | 11       | 9     | 1      | 0     | 1      |   |       |   | 1      |   |          |            |             |    |   |     | Vet will be examining horses in e. pen tomorrow morning, 6/27, for e. decision. 1 of horses gathered today is Jack Burro. Horses scattered. McFadden will be coordinating with Tonopah RA for gather of horses on Stonewall boundary. |
| Fri 6/27  | 5        | 4     | 1      | 0     |        |   |       |   | 3      |   | 1        |            |             |    |   |     | Vet examined 22 horses and determined e. for all 22 in pen. 1 stud put down, broke leg.   |
| CUM       |          |       |        |       |        |   |       |   | 22     |   | 22       |            |             |    |   |     |   |
| Sat 6/28  | 111      | 44    | 53     | 14    |        |   |       |   | 2      |   |          |            |             |    |   |     |   |
| Sun 6/29  | 54       | 25    | 25     | 4     |        |   |       |   |        |   |          |            |             |    |   |     | Take trap down and set-up @ Cactus tomorrow, 6/30. Will be going back to Stonewall and will coordinate gather of horses on Tonopah RA/Stonewall boundary.   |
| Mon 6/30  | 14       | 9     | 3      | 2     |        |   |       |   | 4      |   | 1        |            | 36          |    |   | 36  | Horses scattered. Very windy day; One mare put down in holding facility (trumatic injury).  |
| CUM       | 727      | 353   | 288    | 85    | TOT 1  |   |       |   | TOT 31 |   | 31       | 8          | 204         | 37 |   | 241 |   |

| DATE     | GATHERED |       |        |       | BURROS |   | MULES |   | E. PEN |   | PUT DOWN |            | SHIP TO PVC |   |   |     | NOTES   |
|----------|----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---|-------|---|--------|---|----------|------------|-------------|---|---|-----|---|
|          | TOTAL    | STUDS | MARE S | FOALS | M      | F | M     | F | S      | M | EUTH     | EMERG/DIED | S           | M | F | TOT |   |
|          |          |       |        |       |        |   |       |   |        |   |          |            |             |   |   |     |   |
| Tue 7/1  | 77       | 36    | 29     | 12    |        |   |       |   | 2      |   |          |            |             |   |   |     | Preparing facility @ Floyd Lamb Park in Las Vegas for foal care and subsequent shipment to Ridgecrest WH facility for adopt processing. Baby foals could be at Floyd Lamb 4 to 12 wks to complete weening process.      |
| Wed 7/2  | 30       | 19    | 9      | 2     |        |   |       |   | 2      |   | 1        |            | 37          |   |   | 37  | 1 foal died at holding facility. Vet exam being scheduled for horses in e. pen, tentatively Tues or Weds next week. Older foals will be transported to Floyd Lamb Park this weekend for care by Nevada Wild Horse Assn. |
| Thur 7/3 | 19       | 14    | 4      | 1     |        |   |       |   | 2      |   |          |            |             |   |   |     | Shipped 36 studs, 6/30 & 37 studs on 7/2.   |
| Fri 7/4  | 32       | 13    | 14     | 5     |        |   |       |   |        | 1 | 3        |            |             |   |   |     | 1 mare died after delivering baby; 2 mares put down (1 broke leg in holding facility; the other put down because crippled/dying at trap).   |
| Sat 7/5  | 27       | 16    | 10     | 1     |        |   |       |   | 2      |   |          |            | 37          |   |   | 37  | Shipped 37 studs.   |

| DATE | GATHERED |       |        |       | BURROS |   | MULES |   | E. PEN |   | PUT DOWN |            | SHIP TO PVC |   |   |     | NOTES |
|------|----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---|-------|---|--------|---|----------|------------|-------------|---|---|-----|-------|
|      | TOTAL    | STUDS | MARE S | FOALS | M      | F | M     | F | S      | M | EUTH     | EMERG/DIED | S           | M | F | TOT |       |
|      | Sun 7/6  | 14    | 1      | 3     | 0      | 1 |       | 5 | 4      |   |          |            | 2           |   |   |     |       |



| DATE     | GATHERED |       |        |       | BURROS |   | MULES  |   | E. PEN |   | PUT DOWN |            | SHIP TO PVC |    |    |  | NOTES  |
|----------|----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---|--------|---|--------|---|----------|------------|-------------|----|----|--|--|
|          | TOTAL    | STUDS | MARE S | FOALS | M      | F | M      | F | S      | M | EUTH     | EMERG/DIED | S           | M  | F  | TOT  |  |
|          |          |       |        |       |        |   |        |   |        |   |          |            |             |    |    |  |  |
| Mon 7/7  | 0        | 0     | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 1        | 18         | 17          |    | 35 | <p>Put one male burro down because of trumatic injury, broken leg, caused by fighting in corral. Shipped 66 foals to LV for care by NWhA until weened (4-6 weeks) and they will then be shipped to PVC. There are an estimated 65 pregnant mares in the holding facility on the NWHR that will be released back to range. Shipped 35 animals to PVC: of 18 males, 5 were mules and 1 was burro; of 17 females, 4 were mules. Vet has been scheduled to examine horses in e. pen Thursday morning, 7/10.</p> <p>GATHER COMPLETED - WILL BE: delivering remaining foals to Vegas; releasing horses in holding facility back to NWHR (approximately 419) picking up 107 mares @ Caliente holding facility and releasing them back to NWHR; finalizing gather, ship, and release numbers, to include determining the number of horses left on the NWHR (could be over 600 given the approximately 65 pregnant mares being released); and taking down gather facilities by Friday, 7/11..</p> |  |
| CUM      | 926      | 452   | 357    | 106   | 1      |   | 6      | 4 | 46     | 4 | 48       | 15         | 296         | 78 |    |  | 374  |
|          |          |       |        |       | TOT 1  |   | TOT 10 |   |        |   |          |            |             |    |    |  |  |
| Tues 7/8 |          |       |        |       |        |   |        |   |        | 3 |          |            |             |    |    |  | NO GATHER ACTIVITY - SORTING AND CLOSING DOWN. |
| Weds 7/9 |          |       |        |       |        |   |        |   |        |   |          |            |             |    |    |  | NO GATHER ACTIVITY - SORTING AND CLOSING DOWN. |

| DATE        | GATHERED                   |       |        |       | BURROS |   | MULES  |   | E. PEN |           | PUT DOWN |            | SHIP TO PVC |    |   |     | NOTES |   |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---|--------|---|--------|-----------|----------|------------|-------------|----|---|-----|-------|---|
|             | TOTAL                      | STUDS | MARE S | FOALS | M      | F | M      | F | S      | M         | EUTH     | EMERG/DIED | S           | M  | F | TOT |       |   |
|             |                            |       |        |       |        |   |        |   |        |           |          |            |             |    |   |     |       |   |
| Thurs 7/10  |                            |       |        |       |        |   |        |   |        | 3         |          |            |             |    |   |     |       |   |
|             |                            |       |        |       |        |   |        |   |        | SUBTOT 18 |          |            |             |    |   |     |       |   |
| SUB CUM     | 926                        | 452   | 357    | 106   | 1      |   | 6      | 4 | 46     | 4         | 48       | 15         | 296         | 78 |   |     | 374   | <p>17 of 18 horses in e. pen put down after vet examined and confirmed e. selection; 1 stud released. 14 foals born in pregnant mare pen and shipped to LV along with other foals (last load of 55 for a grand total of 121 being cared for by the NWA). Sorting and close down completed; left range at end of day.</p> <p>CORRECTION NOTES: corrected e. pen count on 7/4 (mare instead of stud). Additionally corrected emergency euth (6) and that died(9) totaling 15. Corrected FOAL to STUD by 1 (was yearling); added 6 foals to total foal count (re: these were foals born in captivity @ Caliente from last gather). Subtracted 1 BURRO and added 1 to MALE MULE (mistake in original classification).</p> <p>FINAL REVIEW OF THE RECORDING BOOK FIGURES IDENTIFIED 580 HORSES ON THE NWHR. SEE ATTACHED ACCOUNTING.</p> |
| Adjustments | 19 foals born in captivity |       |        | 19    |        |   |        |   |        |           |          |            |             |    |   |     |       |   |
| CUM         | 945                        | 452   | 357    | 125   | TOT 1  |   | TOT 10 |   | TOT 50 |           | TOT 63   |            | 296         | 78 |   |     | 374   |   |
|             |                            |       |        |       |        |   |        |   |        |           |          |            |             |    |   |     |       |   |



# NEVADA WILD HORSE RANGE (NWHR)

## JUNE 1997 GATHER

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| ANIMALS GATHERED                                  | 926 head   |
| HORSES RELEASED                                   | 383        |
| ANIMALS EUTHANASIA (Veterinarian)                 | 48         |
| ANIMALS EMERGENCY EUTHANASIA                      | 6          |
| ANIMALS DIED IN CAPTIVITY                         | 9          |
| ANIMALS SHIPPED                                   |            |
| a. To PVC = 374 (75 mare or 16%, 299 stud or 62%) |            |
| b. To Las Vegas = 106 (leppy foals or 22%)*       | <u>480</u> |
|   | 926 head   |

\* Total leppy's in Vegas is 125 hd. (106 captured, 19 born in facility)

### TOTAL HORSES ON THE NWHR

Kawich Horses = 124 hd.  
Cactus Horses = 363 hd.  
Cactus (ungathered) = 39 hd.  
526 hd.

*NOTE: 54 mares are pregnant. Assuming all born and held, TOTAL HORSES would be 580.  
See attached breakdown.*

Kawich Horses = 124 hd. (92 mare, 32 stud), **ratio 3 to 1**

Cactus Horses = 259 hd. (182 mare, 77 stud), gathered 7/97

Cactus Horses = 104 hd. (mares held in Calientie), gathered 1/97  
363 hd. (286 mares, 77 stud), **ratio 3 to 1**

### PERCENTAGE OF IMMUNO-CONTRACEPTIVE MARES

Cactus Valley = 67% (191 of 286 mares)

NWHR = 51% (191 of 378 mares)

### TOTAL COST OF JUNE 1997 GATHER

\$214,992.50

**580 HORSE FIGURE WAS DERIVED AS FOLLOWS:**

|  |        |                 |
|--|--------|-----------------|
| <b>GATHERED</b>  |        | <b>926</b>      |
| <br><u>ADD (+):</u>  |        |                 |
| FOALS BORN IN CAPTIVITY  | 13     |                 |
| CONTRACEPTIVE MARES THAT WERE HELD @ CALIENTE AND RETURNED TO NWHR | 104    |                 |
| * PREGNATE MARES RETURNED TO NWHR                                  | 54     |                 |
| HELICOPTOR CENSUS OF UNGATHERED HORES                              | 39     |                 |
| FOALS BORN @ CALIENTE FACILITY                                     | 6      |                 |
|  | Total: | + 216           |
| <br><b>SUBTOTAL</b>  |        | <br><b>1142</b> |
| <br><u>SUBTRACT (-):</u>   |        |                 |
| SHIPPED  | 374    |                 |
| EUTHANIZED   | 48     |                 |
| EMERGENCY EUTH   | 6      |                 |
| DIED IN CAPTIVITY  | 9      |                 |
| ** FOALS TO BE SHIPPED TO PVC                                      | 125    |                 |
|  | Total: | - 562           |
| <br><b>TOTAL</b>   |        | <br><b>580</b>  |

FOOTNOTES:

\* Pregnate mares have already been accounted for in released back to NWHR figures. This figure accounts for the babies that will be born from these mares. The projected mortality rate for these prospective foals is estimated to be 20%.

\*\* Includes 19 foals born in captivity.

**THOMAS HARTGROVE, D.V.M.**  
**7375 ROME BLVD.**  
**LAS VEGAS, NV. 89131**  
**702-658-1925**

07-21-97

Bureau of Land Management  
4765 Vegas Drive  
Las Vegas, NV. 89108

This report covers the animals I inspected during the Wild Horse Gather on the Nevada Wild Horse Range during June and July of 1997.

6-19-97

Ten (10) horses were examined at the Nevada Wild Horse Range. Nine (9) of the ten (10) animals were euthanized.

Nine (9) horses were euthanized for humane reasons. All horses presented were in a condition class of 2 or less. All horses presented had incisors missing, and malocclusion, which precluded their chances of survival. All horses were over 20 years old. In my opinion the low condition scores were due to malocclusion and the inability to effectively chew forage. Even in captivity, with extensive dental work and special diets, it would be difficult to bring these horses to an acceptable condition score.

One horse was removed from the euthanasia pen. However, due to blindness in the left eye (microphthalmia) the animal was deemed a safety hazard and was sent to PVC to be released on a designated sanctuary.

6-27-97

Twenty two (22) horses were examined at the Nevada Wild Horse Range. All twenty two (22) horses were euthanized for humane reasons.

Fifteen (15) of the horses presented had malocclusions of the incisors and molars, condition score's of 2 or less and were over 20 (some over 25) years of age. In my opinion the condition score's were due to the inability toprehend and masticate forage.

One horse was euthanized because of a fractured leg.

One horse was experiencing seizure's and in condition score of 1.

One horse in addition to dental problems was presented with extensive infected wounds.

One horse aged 30+, presented with dental problems and extreme icterus.

One horse aged 20+, had, in addition to dental problems, a broken crest. His condition score was 1.

Two horses, had sway backs, and dental problems. Their condition scores were 2.

7-10-97

Eighteen (18) horses were examined at the Nevada Wild Horse Range, seventeen (17) of the eighteen (18) were euthanized.

Thirteen (13) horses were euthanized for humane reasons due to dental problems. These horses were presented with incisor and molar malocclusions, condition scores of 2 or less, and all were 20+ years of age. Two (2) horses in this group were condition score 3, however, one was presented with extensive wounds and one was extremely icteric. In my opinion, (except for 2 with additional problems), the condition scores were due to the inability to prehend and masticate forage.

A sorrel mare was presented with peritonitis and was euthanized for humane reasons.

Another sorrel mare was euthanized because of a wry nose. She also presented with a hip injury.

A grey horse was euthanized because of dental problems and skin tumors (melanoma) around his anus.

A black bay was euthanized because he was missing an eye and was deemed a safety hazard. In addition he was presented with dental problems.

One horse examined was deemed fit to be turned back onto the range.

7-15-97

The overall condition of the horses on the Nevada Wild Horse Range was greatly improved. I was pleased to see the adults and foals in acceptable condition. Nearly one thousand horses were captured and only 48 required euthanized for humane reasons.

These loses are unfortunate. However they cannot be avoided as medical problems will develop in an aged population. These problems, left untreated, develop into life threatening situations. With the inability to treat the problems, euthanasia becomes the only humane solution available.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Harlow".



THOMAS HARTGROVE, D.V.M.

July 22, 1997

7375 Rome Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89131  
Telephone: (702) 658-1925

During the Wild Horse gather of June and July 1997 which took place on the Nevada Wild Horse Range, I visually inspected nearly one thousand horses. I was pleased to see that 90% of the adult horses were in such condition to score 4-5 and that the foal crop appeared to be thriving with relatively few problems.

I feel that this vast improvement in the herd's condition is due to the persistent efforts of the BLM to reduce the herd size. Overstocking of the grazing land has, over the years, negatively impacted the land and greatly reduced the available forage. By reducing the herd size the grasses should regenerate, and provide adequate forage for the remaining herd. These efforts have shown respect and concern for the welfare and dignity of the wild horse population.

Not all aspects of the gather were pleasant. About 5% of the herd was in condition score 3. These animals were deemed fit to return to the range. This group rides the proverbial fence and could survive or not, only time and mother nature will tell. Another 5% were in condition score 2 or less, were aged (20 plus years), and presented with various medical problems. These animals were euthanized in order to end inhumane suffering. This is a difficult choice to make. However, it is made conscientiously and with dignity, and allows for the relief of animal suffering and the conservation of animal resources. This is what my veterinary oath compels me to do. But it is not done without sadness and deep sense of loss. I feel that even though the choices were difficult to make, they ultimately benefit not only these individuals but the herd as well.

Nature is a cruel mistress. She allows for no mistakes and treats the old, young, healthy and sick alike. The old and sick should be allowed to die with dignity and not to suffer inhumanely.

By making the decision to reduce the herd to an acceptable level and relieving animal suffering I feel that we have renewed our commitment to the respect for the dignity and welfare of the wild horse. We have again recognized their special needs and place in the West.

*Thomas Hartgrove DVM*