

Appendix VI

<u>No.</u>	<u>Commenter</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>BLM Response</u>
1.	Individuals	We support the Proposed wild horse gather.	Comment noted
2.	Individuals	The proposed action leaves behind only 60 horses on nearly 950 square miles, putting at risk the genetic viability of these herds	Refer to page 24
3.	Individuals	The agency has the clear authority [43 C.F.R. 4710.5 (a)] to close livestock grazing on areas of public lands “if necessary to provide habitat for wild horses or burros, to implement herd management actions, or to protect wild horses or burros.”	By law, BLM is required to manage wild horses in a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple use relationship on the public lands and to remove excess immediately upon a determination that excess wild horses exist. BLM cannot use regulations at 43 CFR 4710.5 to manage wild horses and livestock in a manner that is inconsistent with the RMP. A land-use plan amendment or revision would be necessary to reallocate use in this manner between livestock and wild horses.
4.	Individuals	The proposed action should be postponed while such a process is undertaken.	Please see comment 3 and Refer to regulations, 43 CFR 4710.4. Also please see page 7 of the Environmental Assessment.
5.	Individuals	The Proposed Action has negative environmental impact by jeopardizing the long-term genetic viability and wellbeing of the Silver King herd by reducing the herd number below 150-200 individuals	See response to comment 2
6.	Individuals	The long-term effects of stress caused by social dislocation, loss of freedom and unnatural captive conditions.	Outside the scope of this document
7.	Individuals	The negative impacts to horses left on the range or	See pg 22-23 of the Environmental Assessment

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		released to the range caused by the proposed manipulation of sex ratios and destruction of family bands that play a key role in wild horse society	
8.	Safari Club International and Safari Club International Foundation	Full support on the Silver King gather EA	Comments Noted
9.	Individuals	The EA must include objective evaluation of the above mentioned items, as well as a detailed economic analysis of the long- and short-term costs associated with the capture, removal and warehousing of these horses, and a full consideration of the impacts of capture, removal and warehousing on the horses taken from the range	Comment is outside the scope of the analysis
10.	State of Nevada Department of Wildlife	Completely in support of the District's Proposal for removal	Comment Noted
11.	Northern Nevada Chapter Safari Club International	The Chapter fully supports the proposed gather within the Silver King Herd Management Area	Comment Noted
12.	Individual	Birth Control Good idea	Comment Noted
13.	Individual	Encourage natural predators in all public lands	The effect of natural predation on wild horse population growth is discussed on pp. 15 of the Environmental Assessment.
14.	Individual	Allow the public open access to the gathers that do happen	Outside the scope of this document. The public will have the opportunity to view wild horse gather operations.
15.	Individual	445? It's highly likely this number is totally wrong. The BLM hasn't had any idea how many horses are on the public lands for years. The BLM numbers never add up any more-to the BLM's own admission. Let's not round horses up when we don't know the real statistics ok?	A direct aerial population count was completed April 2010, confirming the presence of excess wild horses both within and outside the Silver King HMA. Please see page 4 of the Environmental Assessment.
16.	Individual	There should be a census of	See response to comment 15

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		this herd area before any round-up be considered as this is needed science to carry forth such a devastating trauma to this wild horse herd that is supposed to be protected under THE LAW	
17.	Individual	HMA's should be devoted to the welfare of wild horses	See response to comment 3
18.	Individual	Range improvements strategies, such as access to prime forage and water sources, should be designed for the benefit of wild horses. Range improvements are meant to protect and improve the condition of rangeland ecosystems for the benefit of wild horses, not exclusively livestock and/or wildlife to detriment of horses (43 CFR 4100.0-5).	Outside the scope of this document
19.	Individual	Reduction or closure to livestock grazing should be implemented <i>immediately</i> to provide habitat for wild horses. This authority (43 CFR 4710.5) should be utilized for the general management of wild horses; reservation of this authority solely for "cases of emergency" is incredulous. AMLs should be adjusted accordingly.	See response to comment 3
20.	Nevada Department of Transportation	To avoid possible animal vehicle conflicts, herding in the vicinity of US 93 and SR 318, should be away for the highway right-of-way	Comment Noted
21.	N-4 State Grazing Board	Strongly supports the September 2010 Silver King HMA Gather	Comment Noted
22.	Board of County Commissioners Lincoln County, Nevada	Supports wild horses on multiple use public lands, provided they are kept within AML with gathers and population controls	Comment Noted
23.	Board of County	Lincoln County Strongly	Comment Noted

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	Commissioners Lincoln County, Nevada	supports the proposed Silver King HMA wild horse gather	
24.	Southern Nevada Water Authority	Supports gathering wild horses in the Silver King HMA	Comment Noted