

**Attachment 2. Description of the emergency gather area and population estimates**

The following is prepared in support of the Addendum to the May 5, 2018 Emergency Response Decision Memorandum for the Emergency Wild Horse Gather near Cold Creek, Nevada.

The emergency gather will be conducted in the Cold Creek area of the Wheeler Pass Joint Management Area (JMA; Figure 1). The terms “Cold Creek area” and “Cold Creek Area of Operations” are used interchangeably for the purposes of the emergency gather.



Figure 1. Area of operations for the Emergency Wild Horse Gather near Cold Creek, Nevada. The area of operations is also referred to as the “Cold Creek area” for the purposes of the emergency gather.

Based on monitoring conducted by wild horse specialists and aerial census flights conducted by the Bureau of Land Management, there are an estimated 200 horses in the Cold Creek area of the JMA (Figure 1) in poor body condition (i.e., Henneke Body Condition Score (BCS) of 3 or less). The estimate was determined based on the following information:

1. Monitoring conducted by Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management wild horse specialists April 11-12, 2018: A total of 40 horses were observed (Cold Creek Range Condition and Wild Horse Assessment, April 27, 2018). Based on the prevalence of fresh horse sign and their knowledge of the area (e.g., topography, available water, etc.), the specialists estimated a total population of approximately 80 horses in the immediate vicinity of the community of Cold Creek.
2. Aerial census flights of the Cold Creek area conducted by the BLM on April 24 and 25, 2018: In a preliminary summary of the flight results, the BLM wild horse specialist who participated in the flights identified 79 horses in poor body condition. These horses were located approximately 4 miles from the community of Cold Creek on a ridge above Willow Creek, and are in addition to the 80 horses estimated during the April 11-12 monitoring trip (see #1).
3. Due to the concealing effects of topography, visibility, and other factors, the BLM and Forest Service estimate there are an additional 40 horses in poor body condition that were not sighted during the flights, for a total estimated population of 200 horses in the Cold Creek area of the JMA (Figure 1). Final census numbers will not be available until the flight data has been analyzed.