

### **Attachment 3. Summary of Public Input**

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.

#### **Public Meeting**

On May 9, 2018, SMNRA Area Manager Donn Christiansen, held a community meeting to inform the public about the Cold Creek emergency wild horse gather. The meeting was held at the Cold Creek Volunteer Fire Department in the community of Cold Creek, Nevada. Approximately 60 people attended the meeting. The audience was a mix of local residents and people who traveled to the location. The majority of the comments at the meeting opposed the gather. After the meeting, many community members spoke individually with Forest Service staff. They said they did not feel comfortable speaking up during the meeting but expressed their support of the emergency gather.

Comments covered a variety of topics including:

- The legitimacy of the science backing the gather.
- Concern for the horses' health and welfare.
- Support for the emergency gather.
- Disagreement over the horses' body condition (i.e., that horses are in better condition than described by the Forest Service).
- Support for alternative herd management options (e.g., birth control, feeding, revenue source, planting forage crops, etc.).
- Concerns about the potential increase in fire danger if horses are removed.
- Frustration over the expedited time frame for initiating the gather.
- Concern about gathering the horses during foaling season.
- Concern that gathered horses would be sent to slaughter.
- Concern that some community members would hide wild horses in their yards during the gather.

Three media outlets were present at the meeting, Noticias Univision Nevada, KLAS Channel 8 (CBS), and the Las Vegas Review Journal. KSNV News Channel 3 (NBS) ran a story before the meeting but did not attend.

#### **Social Media Engagement**

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest posted news releases regarding the emergency wild horse gather to the Forest's website, Facebook, and Twitter page on May 7 and 9, 2018. The posts have drawn a large amount of interest; Facebook posts have reached 25,000 people and Twitter posts have reached 7,200 impressions. Comments on the social media pages covered a variety of topics with people debating both sides of the issue and making numerous comments. Social media comments are similar to those expressed at the public meeting.