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June 7, 2012

Mike Pool  
Acting Director  
1849 C Street NW, Rm. 5665  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Director Pool,

I am writing about the announced helicopter roundup in the Jackson Mountains HMA in Nevada. June is the height of foaling season, meaning that BLM will be stampeding tiny foals, heavily pregnant mares and other horses that may already be compromised by lack of adequate water and forage.

As you are aware, BLM policy prohibits helicopter roundups during peak foaling season. Your agency is moving forward under cover of an “emergency.” The situation in Jackson Mountains HMA does not meet the BLM’s own criteria for an emergency. In fact, the EA for the roundup plan stated specifically that the situation was not an emergency.

BLM did not conduct its due diligence in evaluating less dangerous alternatives to a helicopter drive in the middle of foaling season. The agency could have been water/bait trapping for the last month in order to avoid a helicopter stampede.

Please be sure that I am watching this foaling season closely and hope to see BLM make a good-faith effort to protect wild horse population health, as your own policies mandate.

Very sincerely,

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva  
Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands