

DECLARATION OF JULIE BARRAQUE

I, Julie Barraque, state under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States, the following:

1. I attended the BLM "gather" of Jackson Mt HMA on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 with 3 of my friends. A BLM spokesperson and an armed Forest Ranger accompanied us to the gather site at 5am.
2. I was asked, quite specifically by BLM personnel, why we were taking photos and especially a video of the roundup. Our reply, I loved horses and were concerned after reading the controversy surrounding helicopter "gathers"/ roundups.
3. We could hear the helicopter in the hills across the valley long before we were able to see it, maybe ½ hour or more. Presumably searching for and/or driving horses in towards the trap. Temperature was a cool 54 degrees when we arrived.
4. The helicopter appeared driving 5 horses down the hill towards the trap, 4 adults and 1 small foal. Once they were headed in the right direction, the helicopter left back into the hills.
5. Here appeared approx ½ hour later driving a band of horses consisting of 6 adults and 2 small foals. This band appeared to be running quite a bit faster down the hill, and the dark horse in front split from the main band in the opposite direction of the trap.
6. The helicopter went after the lone horse trying to drive it back to the others. The other members of this band followed and what ensued was at least ½ hour or more of zigging and zagging and circling. They all disappeared behind the small hill in front of us, so that all we could see was the helicopter hovering. When he eventually got them all headed towards the mouth of the trap, they spooked and took off in the opposite direction, irregardless of the helicopter hovering right above them.
7. By this time many of the horses were visibly sweating despite the cool temperatures, and appeared to be quite disturbed.
8. The previous band of 5 members had disappeared long before this happened and were never seen by us again.
9. The helicopter left abruptly and we thought it was to refuel, but then we were told the "gather" was over for the day. They had received orders to take down the trap and move it to another location.
10. One of the many things I found strange about today's "gather" was that the Judas horse. The horse was held just inside the mouth of the trap by a cowboy wearing a bright blue and white striped shirt and cowboy hat who was standing there at the trap

mouth. This may have had something to do with the band's refusal to enter the trap area. Every "gather" I have ever watched, the Judas horse was led out a good ways, set loose before the wild ones, to lead them back to and into the trap area. Today they did not do that.

11. We spent a total of 3 hours at the trap site. During this time we were told by the BLM spokesperson that the "gather" was being conducted due to a shortage of water and forage for the wild horses. Yet, during this time we viewed over a dozen healthy, fat cows wandering around the trap site and on the road into hills. We had been told by the BLM spokesperson that all cattle had been removed.

12. The horses that they attempted to "gather " today seemed to me to be in good health, despite being run through the hills and across the valley floor.

13. I was founder/director of a horse rescue for many years, and currently own 7 horses, so I consider myself a pretty good judge of a horse's condition. These wild horses did not appear to be in any danger of starvation.

14. However, I am very concerned about the condition of their legs and hooves, especially the young foals, after being driven by a helicopter for who knows how many miles.

15. I personally feel that the BLM should suspend further "gathers" until the fall, when the foals will be older and better able to withstand the rigors of a round up. There may also be pregnant mares that could be irreparably harmed by being chased for miles.

16. I just checked the BLM website and it appears they resumed capturing horses after we were told they had stopped and we could leave. The BLM website notes 17 horses captured yesterday after we left. BLM did not notify us at all after we traveled considerable distance at personal expense to observe the days operation.

This statement is made June 20, 2012 in Fallon NV.

s/
Julie Barraque