

## Statement for support of “healthy Nevada lands”

My name is Bernie Crooks, I have been a resident in Nevada for over 55 years, and an outdoors sports man for the same. I also have contributed to the environmental support of our Nevada wildlife thru Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU) with the water programs, (guzzlers) for 30 years plus. I have been an educator as a volunteer hunter safety program with the Department of Wildlife (NDOW) for ten years plus. That status, NDOW can be verified by my Education boss Dawn Anderson with NDOW.

I'm not really sure that all involved really understand why any large hoofed animal is a detriment to a “natural water source” or spring. Most of the springs in Nevada are a natural bog areas, the water seeps out and and soaks the surrounding area making it quite soft. Then, the over flow from the output will drain down a canyon or hillside. When a large hoofed animal such as a horse or burrow steps onto the soft material around the spring, it leaves a large hoof print, both wide and deep, and happens times four. Unfortunately horses love to wade to cool their feet and will “camp” at the water to feed and cool off til it is gone.

The water flows into the print, and ceases to flow to the down hill and moist ground at the lower level. The Spring is now shrinking in its size and flow. Size and flow of course is proportional to the number of animals. During the evaporation eventually the wet area shrinks to the point it can be sealed off by the hoof compaction to all flow, and the spring can be sealed. Another spring area is lost to any and all wildlife in that area.

I support the need to control The Nevada Horse and Burro population.

Bernie Crooks