

Appendix 1. Excerpt of the survey instrument used to conduct a national online survey of the U.S. public's knowledge and opinion of free roaming horses (*Equus ferus caballus*) 2020, n = 3177.

The following questions assess how much you know about free-roaming horses in the U.S. For each statement or question, please select the most accurate response. It is alright to make your best guess or to select "I don't know".

1. Please select the most accurate statement about horses in North America.

- a) Horses were introduced to North America by European explorers and colonists.
- b) Horses were introduced to North America by native 'Americans' crossing the Bering Sea land bridge.
- c) Horses are native to North America.
- d) I don't know.

2. The Wild Free-roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 recommends that no more than 27,000 free-roaming horses will be managed in Horse Management Areas, which are public lands specifically designated as free-roaming horse habitat. Today, there are about \_\_\_\_\_ free-roaming horses in Horse Management Areas.

- a) 15,000 – 25,000
- b) 25,000 – 50,000
- c) 50,000 – 75,000
- d) >75,000
- e) I don't know

3. A healthy female horse (mare) can give birth to how many foals a year?

- a) 1 foal every year
- b) 2 foals every year

- c) 1 foal every 2 years
- d) 1 foal every 3 years
- e) I don't know

4. Which of the following western U.S. states have free-roaming horses managed on public lands (select all that apply):

- Wyoming
- California
- Oklahoma
- Utah
- Montana
- Washington
- Oregon
- Idaho
- Nevada
- Colorado
- I don't know

5. The public lands in the western United States where free-roaming horses live are called 'rangelands'. These lands are predominantly:

- a) Deserts or desert-like
- b) Grasslands
- c) Forests
- d) Shrubs and small trees
- e) I don't know

6. What happens if someone kills a free-roaming horse that was living within a horse management area on public lands?

- a) Nothing happens to this person
- b) The person is given an official warning
- c) The person is charged a \$250 fine
- d) The person is charged with a US felony
- e) I don't know.

7. The U. S. government is authorized to use which tools to manage free-roaming horse population numbers in horse management areas? Please select all that apply.

- a) Removal from public lands to federal holding facilities
- b) Adoption and sale of horses from holding facilities
- c) Lethal animal control (Euthanasia)
- d) Sterilization (Neutering/castration)
- e) None of the above
- f) I don't know.

8. Which of the following is a common predator of free-roaming horses on western public lands? Please select all that apply.

- a) Cougar/mountain lion (*Puma concolor*)
- b) Black bear (*Ursus americanus*)
- c) Gray wolf (*Canis lupis*)
- d) Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)
- e) None of the above
- f) I don't know