



# AUSTRALIAN ALPS NATIONAL PARKS

## 2019 Aerial Wild Horse Survey: FAQ

### 1. Why are you doing a wild horse survey in the Alps?

The Australian Alps Program has supported aerial horse surveys in 2001, 2003, 2009 & 2014. This is the latest in a long running monitoring program. The purpose of this survey is to produce an updated estimate of horse populations in the survey blocks, along with an estimate of change since 2014. This is vital information that will contribute to future scientific research and inform evidence based adaptive management by Parks agencies in NSW, Victorian and the ACT.

### 2. Are you going to record any other animals?

Horses are the priority species of this survey.

### 3. Where are you going to survey?

An area of around 5000km<sup>2</sup> in 3 large blocks will be surveyed (refer attached map). These are the same blocks that were surveyed in 2014. The survey blocks cover known wild horse habitat in the Kosciuszko and Alpine National Parks and adjoining State Forest.

### 4. Why are you only surveying those areas on the map? Why not the whole Alps?

The 2014 survey included all areas of public land known to contain horses. One of the key objects of the 2019 survey is to be able to directly compare results with those of 2014. Thus the same blocks will be re-surveyed. Anecdotally, wild horse distribution has expanded in recent years, so the results from this survey will slightly underestimate the overall Alps population.

### 5. How are you going to conduct the survey?

The survey will replicate the design and methodology of the 2014 survey. It will use helicopters and highly experienced air observers. They will fly transects at a set height and speed and record what they see. A statistician then analyses the collected data to estimate the wild horse population. The methodology, which is used worldwide to estimate large animal populations, is known to produce very accurate and precise results.

### 6. When is it happening?

The survey will be conducted in autumn, the same time of year as the 2014 survey. The exact dates will depend on staff availability, weather conditions and the bushfire situation.

### 7. Will I be able to see the results?

Yes. Once the survey is complete, the full peer reviewed technical report and general reports will be published on the Australian Alps website.

### When will results be available?

All reports should be completed by late 2019.

## The Australian Alps Liaison Committee

For more information: <https://theaustralionalps.wordpress.com/contact-us/>

# 2019 Survey Areas

