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Organization:

Title:

Comments: 02/23/20

To whom it concerns;

My take on the [ldquo]Heber horse herd[rdquo] is as follows. I will start by saying that I am not in agreement with these horses being randomly shot and killed or even injured.

As a resident of the White Mountains since before the Rodeo/Chedeski fires, and a volunteer during those fires evacuating horses in danger of the fires, I am aware of the sudden increase in population of these feral horses, and I also remember hearing stories of people turning horses out onto forest service lands around the same time period due to the down turn in the economy and so many who felt they couldn[rsquo]t afford to keep them and this was their only resort.

My concerns are that with this herd not being properly managed they are genuinely suffering for many reasons. First, they compete with wild game and cattle for forage and water compounded during drought seasons, secondly they get no medical attention to word off parasites and equine disease which can be passed on to nearby domestic horses, and lastly let[rsquo]s be honest, they are destructive at times tearing down fences or simply raising havoc for neighboring horse owners as well as for those who desire to ride horseback or camp in many of the forest areas they roam.

I strongly feel that they need to be humanely gathered following the historical process that the BLM has used for years, checked, aged and treated for health issues, stallions castrated, branded for identity purposes and then ultimately put up for adoption as is also done by the BLM.