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Comments: It is my understanding that we are no long responding to the same individual that drafted this plan. With that in mind I would hope that the run around voice messaging and the non return of phone calls are now a thing of the past as well. I would like to ask who ever this is that's taking his place to please help us heal this little town. The lies and miss information in regards to this horses have sickened this area for far too long. It's time for someone who is willing to tell the truth and show the people in this area that the horses are a good thing. Perhaps not for the rancher, who would need to do just a little more work to make this work. But for the small businesses in town that could profit from the tourist that come to see the horses. Let's face it now, these horses have been kept a secret so that Forest Service Official could lie to Congress so they could avoid their responsibility for the horses. Per the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burro Act of 1971. The ranchers and some of their friends around this little town are trying to say that there were only a few horses left when the Act was drafted. I will tell you here and now that this is simply not true. I've been coming to Overgaard since 1983 although I just moved up here in 2013. I can tell you without question that there were a great many horses in the forest in the 1980s. In fact I posted a conversation on the H.W.H. Facebook page that I had with a well known rancher. He runs the Gibson allotments, which is where we were as this conversation took place. He was trying to convince me that the horses here were not wild but runaways from the reservation. This story is one that has been told around town by this same individual. He told me that in 1984 he ran over 180 horses onto the reservation and then in 2000 the Rodeo Chedski burnt down all the reservation fence and all the reservation feral horses crossed over and he said that's what these horses are. I asked him. " If they were wild when ran them over, how is it that you can call them feral when they come back?" Of course his responds was. " These aren't the same horses, that was twenty years ago." I simply replied, " it's their off spring, they were wild when you ran them over and their still wild now." I was a bit surprised, I must say. Here's a rancher admitting to me something that I'd heard from others and what he was admitting to was a violation of Federal Law. Although this is not the point to be made here. There is documentation that shows that in 1988 a rancher by the name of Reidhead and a Forest Supervisor named Nick W. Mcdonol or Mcdowoy something like that. The signature is hard to make out. There is also documentation of a statement by Mr. Reidhead that he did in fact transport and sell 187 horses for a paycheck of over \$18,000. So I find myself in a bit of a mathematical dilemma here. Since 180 and 187 equals 387. How is it that in 1971 there where only 7 horses in the entire Black Mesa Rancher District. 71 to 84 is only 13 years. So if out of 7 horses only one was a stud, unlikely but for the sack of argument we'll give you that. It would still not be possible for 7 horses to multiply to 180 in just 13 years. Much less multiplying to 387 over 17 years. The point here is simple. Forest service personnel have been lying to Congress about the number of horses in the Black Mesa Ranger District since day one of the Acts drafting. This has caused tension between some locals and advocates for years up here. This tension is obviously still here to date. There are far more people living up here today that are in favor of leaving the horses along than ever before. Last year as I was making my rounds I would stop and speak with campers about the Wild Horses. Except for the ranchers that were camping out to plan their yearly strategy and a few rancher sympathizers the majority of the campers liked the horses hanging around. In fact I met people that came here from Canada and even some from overseas that came here just to see the horses and staying at the motels in town. By the time Fall past my count was 10 to 1 in favor of the horses. Everything thing I heard from the group in the 1 category apposing the horses, were lies. You know the drill, horses are blamed for everything the cattle do. We have the documentation, we can prove that cattle are the cause of the damage in the forest. In fact it is so obvious that one would wonder why it,s even questioned. Attached are two pictures. The area is three mile or so south on F.R.124 east of the waterhole and coral. There were no cattle released in this for those two or three months area last year like the other areas. There were however 60 or 70 horses in and out of the area for the whole year. I have other pictures showing the stud piles and such but this thing won't accept more than a couple of pictures. Please note the growth. If cattle had released in this area, it surly wouldn't look like it does. As a farmer I can tell you with no hesitation that I have never seen a plant with roots hanging off of it in a horses mouth and I've never seen a cow that didn't eat a root

through the course of a day. This is one of the biggest lies out there. I just went on line the other day looking through cattle magazines. I found pictures in a South American magazine and one in a Scotland magazine that were of cows eating grass with the roots still attached. How can people say something doesn't happen when we've all seen that it does. We can make the same argument about waterhole damage. We've all seen it. Horses out there year round don't do the damage to waterholes that cattle do in one month. Now here's the real problem. The water, the rancher don't want to haul it in and the other animals can't live without it. So lets kill a few hundred animal to save the ranchers a little work. What are you people thinking. What good is have all the money in the world if the world is no longer here. As I've stated many times now this forest would not be as lush as it is if not for the horses having been here for hundreds of years. The cattle will kill the forest and as long as the rancher of today gets his profits, he doesn't care about tomorrow. Why should he when the damage is done he'll want the tax payers to fix it. This could be a good thing for all of us, don't make it about the few. They're stealing from American to sell to other countries. No doubt in my mind that what it is. It's theft, ignoring and Act that was written into law for the American people, for the soul purpose of making enormous profits. What would you call it? Other than breaking the law, of course. Thank you again, in advance, for you responds.

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