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Comments: Although past and present herd population is a major focus in the Heber Wild Horse Territory management plan and EA, the Forest Service failed to mention it was arranging and paying to have free-roaming horses removed from the forest after the WFRHBA became law. This is relevant because the Forest Service EA states, "In 1993, the population was purported to be two mares". However, the FS had written agreements with ranchers/citizens to pay for the capture of free-roaming horses and send them to auction during the 1980s and into the 1990s without any proof that the horses were trespass. The fact that they had not counted all the horses in the Sitgreaves, or even on the Territory itself illustrates just how flawed and failed the data they report to the public is. The proof of captures and removals instrumented by the Forest Service without following any proper procedures or even having a HWHT management plan demonstrates a clear disregard for the WFRHBA.

At the time of the captures and to this current date, there has never been the development of a Heber Wild Horse Territory management plan. There was no proof the horses removed were trespass and no indication any attempts were made by the Forest Service to determine if the horses that were captured and removed were part of the Heber herd or if they were trespass.

Please see attachments which serve as samples from the records received through a 2015 FOIA request which validate the claim that the Forest Service had written agreements with citizens for the capture and removal of free-roaming horses in the Sitgreaves, even from pastures located on the Heber Wild Horse Territory. Also the proof of horses from the Sitgreaves were auctioned and sold.

Attachment a: Purchase Order regarding capture of trespass horses

Attachment b: Agreement regarding capturing horses signed by Forest Supervisor

Attachment d: Valley Livestock Auction receipt

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