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Organization:

Title:

Comments: For the Administrative Record, I hereby submit this comment with attachment re: the Plan's failure to consider our wild horses "as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands". Forest Service is focused on ridding the range of wild horses while allowing massive destruction of our National Forest lands by people and off-road vehicles.

Comment re Damage Caused by People and Their Off-Road Vehicles

Throughout the Draft Management Plan, it takes a [ldquo]Queen of Hearts[rdquo] approach to the management of our Heber Wild Horses. Any little thing and it[rsquo]s [ldquo]Off with their heads![rdquo] There is nothing about this plan that considers these horses [ldquo]as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands[rdquo], which they are [ldquo]by law[rdquo]. The Forest Service, which has long had the policy of ridding the range of wild horses, is responsible for the [ldquo]welfare[rdquo] and [ldquo]protection[rdquo] of the horses. It[rsquo]s the proverbial fox guarding the henhouse. It[rsquo]s a travesty! The law changed with the passage of the 1971 Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, but the Forest Services[rsquo] [ldquo]policy[rdquo] has never changed to match the law. Numerous documents have been submitted to the Administrative Record showing the ongoing policy of Forest Service to rid the range of wild horses in spite of the law and in spite of their duty and obligation towards the welfare and safety of these horses.

The Forest Service feigns so much concern for our National Forest lands when it comes to our wild horses, which have never been shown to cause damage, but they don[rsquo]t have a care in the world when it comes to damage caused by people and the massive number of off-road vehicles racing around and tearing up our National Forest lands.

Below are photos of an area larger than the size of a football field inside the designated Heber Wild Horse Territory where the forest has been torn up by people who made a [ldquo]playground[rdquo] for racing around in their off-road vehicles. The Forest Service has never shut this down to protect our public lands. This is only one example of the damage caused by people and their off-road vehicles. There is significant damage throughout the Sitgreaves National Forest. Numerous additional photographs are available upon request.

All photos provided herein were taken on March 28-2021 by Betty Nixon:

Photograph in attachment

Photograph in attachment

Photograph in attachment

Photograph in attachment

Photograph in attachment