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Organization:

Title:

Comments: For the Administrative Record, I hereby submit the attached comment re: violation of the Act by not treating our wild horses as "an integral part of the natural system of the public lands". So much emphasis in the plan about removing horses at every opportunity, but failure to address damage and destruction to the forest caused by people.

Comment re Concern about wild horses but no concern about destruction and danger from target shooting:

Throughout the Draft Plan, there is repeated reference to removal of horses if any forest damage can be attributed to them. This is in violation of the Act in that the horses are to be considered "an integral part of the natural system of the public lands". And, while the Forest Service feigns concern for the health of the forest when it comes to the horses, they show no concern for the forest when it comes to damage and destruction caused by people.

Indiscriminate target shooting throughout the forest goes unchecked. This poses an obvious danger to people recreating in the forest and to the animals in the forest from people who "fire away" without even using a backdrop to stop bullets. There was an incident reported by a photographer when bullets whizzed past her as she photographed a band of wild horses. She had to take cover from the flying bullets. I came across a man in camo gear, firing a high-powered rifle into the forest with no backdrop. When I asked him how did he know there weren't people in that direction. His response was to ask me, "Are there people over there?" If you are firing a rifle, you should already know the answer to that question.

People are shooting up signs. People are leaving targets and shell casings all over the forest. Do we even know what kind of damage is being caused to the environment from all the lead being shot into our mountains and streams? People are shooting up live trees and killing beautiful, tall ponderosa pines. This has been reported to Forest Service, but no action has ever been taken.

Photos in Attachment: Photos of two different live ponderosa pine trees shot up (on the left shows the shot area on the tree; right shows the tree is indeed a live tree)

Photos in Attachment: Here's a beautiful ponderosa pine that target shooters have just destroyed. The next photo is of all the shell casings I picked up at the location:

Photos in Attachment: Just two examples of targets people left in the forest. I have photos of several more targets that I removed from the forest. Notice the first target is set up with no backdrop. Bullets could hit anything, including people.:

Photos in Attachment: Examples of signs shot up:

Photos in Attachment: In one spot alone, I picked up sixty-six (66) of the red 12 gauge shotgun shells. Photo depicts a large number of shell casings I picked up out of the Sitgreaves National Forest

Photo in Attachment: Shattered skeet discs litter the forest floor. This photo is just one example of many I could show you