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Organization:

Title:

Comments: For the Administrative Record, I hereby submit the attached comment re: Cattle growers given a free pass and priority under the "multi-use" and "natural ecological balance" programs. Forest Service ignores cattle grower damage to the land and danger caused to people from discarded barbed wire entanglements.

Comment re Concern about horse damage, but no reference to damage caused by cattle growers and their barbed wire. Cattle growers [ldquo]own[rdquo] the Forest Service and are given priority over all else:

I submit for the Administrative Record that the Draft Plan and EA express so much concern in the event that wild horses should cause any damage (or perceived damage) to the forest; however, the Forest Service has never addressed anywhere, or at any time, all the damage caused by cattle growers. This is just another example of how the Forest Service caters completely and totally to the cattle industry to the extent that they are derelict in their duty to care for the land. Their motto [ldquo]Caring for the land and serving people[rdquo] should actually read [ldquo]Caring for the cattle growers at all cost[rdquo]. Cattle growers are being given priority over all else under the [ldquo]multi-use[rdquo] and [ldquo]natural ecological balance[rdquo] systems.

Discarded barbed wire litters the forest floor so badly that I suspect these dangerous entanglements placed end to end would reach across America and back at least once if not multiple times. The Forest Service has been derelict in their duties by not requiring permittees to remove all barbed wire that is not actually a working fence structure. Why is this not part of their Allotment Plans and Annual Operating Instructions?

The entanglements are dangerous to people recreating in the forest, their children and their pets. These entanglements are dangerous to wildlife and to our wild horses. Animals have been observed with wire around their lower legs. When fences are repaired or replaced, it should be a requirement that old barbed wire is removed for the safety of people and the safety of animals and for the health of our forest.

I have provided some pictures below; I could provide a hundred more. Dilapidated fencing is still in place from the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski Fire. That was 19 years ago. When is the old barbed wire going to finally be removed? It is time to hold the Forest Service and cattle growers accountable for the health of this forest and the safety of people and animals. And, where has Arizona Game and Fish been on this? They, too, should be held accountable.

Photos in attachment of just some of the discarded barbed wire strewn throughout the Sitgreaves National Forest. These entanglements are literally everywhere throughout the forest:

Photos in attachment of Dilapidated barbed wire fence left from the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski Fire:

After the fire, the new fence was built (front) and the old, dilapidated fence (back) was not removed, creating a double barrier to wildlife movement. The bottom wire on the old fencing is barbed wire, not smooth wire as is required for migration of smaller animals that go under the fence:

Photos in attachment of More discarded barbed wire [ndash] people/wildlife entanglements: