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Comments: Hello!

I am not in favor of large scale, permanent gathers. There are too many horses in holding as it is, at a tremendous cost to taxpayers. They can eat for free in their natural habitat.

I don't view wild horses as invasive or feral, since they arose in North America and spread from there to the rest of the world. They weren't extinct, they were "traveling." The ever-shortening (based on DNA and other findings) length of

time they are presumed to have been absent from North America is minuscule in the grand scheme of nature and evolution. They thrive here because they co-evolved with the plants and environment - which didn't even have time to change before they were returned to it. "The grass remembered them."

Utilizing a resource is not always the same as damaging it.

I understand that there might need to be emergency *temporary* gathers as a result of the Carpenter fires, but that should not be used as a springboard to permanent removal.

When gathers are unavoidable, I am in favor of bait trapping as a first choice. If helicopter gathers are unavoidable, the contractors must be properly supervised / controlled. I have seen too many times where they believe they "have the reins" because of the wording and duration of their contracts, and this allows them to pretty much do as they please even when BLM / FS staff might prefer them to follow other directions or approaches.

Over-gathering promotes increased reproduction. Please sufficiently study the NAS report and incorporate their findings and recommendations into your future management methods.

For necessary / unavoidable population control, I would prefer that you utilize PZP, both to allow the herds / families to continue to exist in nature (good tourist option), and also for the cost savings that option offers.

PLEASE partner with interested members of the public and other organizations dedicated to wild horses, in order to consider all options and solutions, and to give interested individuals and groups the opportunity to assist in helping managing the animals that so many have come to know and care about.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.