Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/14/2020 7:21:25 PM
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Comments: RE: Draft Heber Wild Horse Management Plan

1. If not managed, and limited in number, the horse herd on NF land in the vicinity of Heber, will destroy the Forest's vegetative understory and negatively affect the regional water courses which originate in the area. Once the vegetative understory is destroyed or significantly damaged, the herd will be forced to move north, onto less productive (because of lesser rainfall) private, State, and BLM land, and continue the destruction on an even more fragile landscape.

2. The FS should recognize that the Heber horse herd are not wild horses, but animals which strayed onto NF land following the Rodeo Chedeski fire when the Reservation fence, rebuilt by BIA after the fire, was damaged by falling burnt trees not removed from the fence right of way when the fence was rebuilt.

3. In addition to managing herd numbers to match the ecosystem's carrying capacity, the FS should manage their range by fencing designated areas.

4. The FS does itself, its land, the public users of the forest, and wild horses themselves, a disservice by allowing feral horses to be considered, and then managed, as wild horses.

5. The proposed management plan has serious implications for other feral horses which are loose elsewhere on the A-S NF - feral horses should not, and cannot, be treated as wild horses.