

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/17/2020 5:48:02 PM

First name: MCKAY

Last name: SLADE

Organization:

Title:

Comments: ATTN: HEBER WILD HORSE TERRITORY

IM A LIFETIME RESIDENT TO THE HEBER OVERGAARD COMMUNITY. I WAS RAISED HERE, WENT TO SCHOOL HERE, AND LIKE MOST OTHER RESIDENCE TO THIS AREA I SPENT A LOT OF MY RECREATIONAL TIME IN THE SURROUNDING FOREST. I CURRENTLY LIVE IN SHOWLOW AND I DRIVE EVERY DAY TO WORK IN HEBER. I WAS VERY HAPPY TO HEAR ABOUT THE PUBLICS ABILITY TO SEND IN POSTS OR COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT BUZZ OF THE HEBER "WILD" HORSE PROBLEM. THESE SO CALLED "WILD HORSES" ARENT NATIVE TO THE MOGOLLON RIM AREAS. MOST OF THESE HORSES ARE RESERVATION HORSES CROSSING OVER AFTER THE RODEO CHEDISKY FIRE IN I BELIEVE THE YEAR WAS 2002. BURNT PINE TREES AND OTHER DEBRIS FROM THE FIRE CAUSING WIRED FENCES TO BE BROKEN ALLOWING THESE FERAL RESERVATION HORSES TO CROSS OVER AND GRAZE AND ROAM FREE. THEIR OWNERS DINT WANT THEM AND THEY HAVE MADE NO ATTEMPT RECOVER HORSES LEFT FOR DEAD ON THE FIRST PLACE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE PLANS AND OPINIONS OF LOCAL RANCHERS AND FARMERS AND MULTI GENERATIONAL FAMILIES FROM HEBER TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THESE OTHER OUTSIDE OPINIONS FROM OTHER STATES AND COMMUNITIES.

WE SHOULD REGULATE THE HORSES WE HAVE NOW BEFORE ALLOWING THEM TO GROW AND BECOME TOO NUMEROUS TO CONTROL. I DONT THINK KILLING THEM ALL IS THE ANSWER BUT I DO BELIEVE PEOPLE WOULD RESPOND TO ADOPTING SOME OF THESE HORSES GIVING THESE HORSES A GOOD LIFE AND PUTTING THEM TO USE AS RANCH/CATTLE HORSES.

THEY WILL EFFECT THE GROWTH OF VEGETATION AND THEY WILL EFFECT THE POPULATION OF OTHER NATURAL GRASS FEED ANIMALS. NATIVE DEER, ELK, ANTELOPE AND MANY OTHER SPECIES NATIVE TO OUR FORESTS. JUST LIKE WE REGULATE OTHER WILDLIFE SPECIES WITH BIG GAME HUNTS AND OTHER MEASURES, I THINK SIMILAR MEASURES NEED TO BE MADE WITH THESE HORSES SO THAT WE CAN FURTHER PRESERVE OUR FORESTS AND RECREATIONAL OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES. THANKS!!!