

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/17/2020 6:06:08 PM

First name: Daniel

Last name: Franco

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Attn: Heber Wild Horse Territory

I am a lifelong resident of Heber and an avid outdoorsman. I was born in 1974 and have been hunting, fishing, and camping on the Sitgreaves forest south of Heber since the early 1980's. I never saw a "wild" horse until after the 2002 Rodeo-Chediski fire when the Fort Apache Reservation fence was destroyed by blown over trees. With the boundary fence down, feral horses from the reservation were able to come and go until the fence was repaired in 2006-2007 trapping these horses on our national forest.

At first I enjoyed seeing an occasional horse while out hunting or camping. But obviously its gotten way out of hand. Due to the lack of natural predators, these horses continue to multiply causing lack of feed of habitat for them and other native animals that were here long before these horses.

I strongly believe that these horses have to be managed just like the other animals that inhabit our forests. I urge you to consider having a designated area for these horses to inhabit along with our native wildlife that chose to live in this same area. The amount of horses allowed to inhabit this area should be based on the same formula that you (the Forest Service) use to determine how many livestock are allowed on your grazing permits as horses ingest as much or more feed as cattle.

Any horses found outside this designated area must be considered feral and may be caught, captured, or shot on sight. No exceptions!

Id recommended using the Black Canyon Lake, Hoyle Canyon areas west to Hwy 260 as this designated horse area for peoples viewing pleasure. That allows for easy access from FS Rd 300 to Black Canyon Lake and also for visibility along Hwy 260 from FS Rd 300 to approximately mile marker 296.

Its a win-win for everyone!!