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Title:

Comments: I spent most of my 38 year career on the ASNF. I started with the Forest Service as a seasonal in 1974 and lived at the Chevelon Ranger Station, worked with Heber District employees, and spent my career in both Fire and Timber Management. During this time I do not EVER remember seeing wild horses in the Heber area. I would have seen them or heard people talking about them if they were there. What I do know is that following the Rodeo-Chediski fire, which I was on, many fences burned along the Fort Apache-ASNF border. I also drove through Whiteriver for years, and remember seeing all of the FERAL horses loose on the Reservation. I also remember seeing these horses on the Forest after the fire. While I understand there are now large herds of horses that some see as "Wild" they are not. I understand the huge emotions that go with this issue, but I have seen the damage these horses have done to the land and vegetation. There needs to be a manageable size herd ONLY allowed. Currently they are competing for vegetation with elk, deer, and other true "WILD" animals. I personally believe they need to be removed permanently from the Forest. However, I understand that may not be an option. I do believe the herd size needs to be reduced drastically so they don't compete with elk and deer, and even cattle and sheep. Please consider all options to reduce the size of the herd through adoptions, or lethal methods as needed. We cannot allow the "do gooder "wild" horse lovers" to NOT allow management of this herd. Elk, and deer were on the Forest LONG before the feral horses. They must be the first priority for vegetation.