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Comments: I have reviewed the Heber Wild Horse Territory Plan #18916 and I have a few comments. I can tell that a lot of work, and thought, has gone into this. But...It is clear from this document that the horses that are in this territory are not the original horses present when the territory was established in 1974. (the original horses were domestic, not "wild") The number had dwindled to 2 mares in 1993, who were believed to have died of old age. Then, the numbers began to grow in the 1990's, mostly due to problems with the fence/boundary with the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. I believe that the vast majority of the horses currently in the territory are from the reservation, with a few that were probably "turned out" by people living in the area.

I strongly believe that we should NOT maintain a population of horses in this territory. They are abandoned domestic horses and do not have a place in the wild with the other wild animals such as deer and elk.

They should be rounded up, and the residents of the indian reservation should be offered the opportunity to adopt them. Then, the general public should be given the opportunity to adopt after that. Ultimately, whatever horses not adopted should be sent to slaughter or euthanized. Periodic round ups will need to be performed, I'm sure.

I do not want to see my taxpayer monies used to SUPPORT these horses. Also, the reservation should be held responsible to maintain the boundary fence in good condition.

I want to repeat...These horses are domestic and are not a wild animal that needs to be "managed", like deer, elk, wolves, etc..