

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2020 3:03:06 AM

First name: Jeanne

Last name: Kinnard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: When discussing wild horse management systems, I'm concerned about the widely-accepted myths about wild horses. If people are making judgements based on false beliefs about the horses, poor policies will be developed. For instance, cattle ranchers put forward the idea that horses are very destructive to the physical environment on which they live. It's ironic, because the privately-owned cattle that graze on public lands ARE destructive. When cattle graze, they rip up the grass and plants, including the plant's roots - which means the land will be stripped of vegetation. Horses behave very differently. When they graze, they leave inches of grass behind, so that the ecosystem is not altered. The grass simply grows back.

I encourage you to seek reliable information about wild horses and their ecology before making decisions about this project. Objective information from behaviorists, ecologists, and animal behaviorists should be prioritized over cattle rancher's comments. The cattle ranchers are not objective as they are interested in profit.

Thank you for your time.