

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/22/2020 12:19:18 PM

First name: Leslie

Last name: Carlson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have read the documents and appreciate that a lot of thought has been put into a management plan. There are many aspects of the plan that are good. However there are some gaping holes that cause me concern...

- The maps showing where one or more of the horses have been seen currently throughout the territory and the huge reduction of area they would have as designated territory are quite shocking. Why not use HUMANE birth control for the horses outside of the desired areas - the spaying of mares as a method of control needs to be removed from this document. That is not a humane method of birth control.

- An actual tally of how many horses have been seen is key to making decisions. The use "One or more horses" being seen in an area is too nebulous.

And as several others have said, these two questions need to be answered..

- How many cows are permitted to graze annually on the 19,700 acres designated as the HWHT? What impact do those livestock have on the rangeland health of the wild horse territory?

- How many cows are permitted to graze annually on the 616,000 acres of the Black Mesa District of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF)? What impact do those livestock have on the rangeland health of the entire ASNF ecosystem?

Perhaps a more humane and publicly palatable solution might be using the current population as the baseline AML - which would require no expense for roundups or traps. Leave the horses where they are and adjust the management practices throughout the territory to include reducing cow/calf herd numbers allowed where needed and employing science based HUMANE birth control for the horse population going forward. Involving study groups from our Universities to ensure the best possible genetic diversity going forward and ensuring that the ratio of birth control within herd groups is correct so they aren't wiped out with overuse of birth control might be a good idea.

Thank you.