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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am respectfully writing to you as a citizen, taxpayer. I am very much opposed to the proposed management plan for the Heber Wild Horse Territory.

It is my understanding that the Forest Service intends to remove most of the 292-471 horses from the area, leaving 50-104. This does not allow for enough genetic diversity in the bands, or families, ultimately leading to the loss of all wild horses in that area. The plans to limit the horses' range to 21 square miles when the surrounding Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest covers more than 43 thousand square miles of public land is short-sighted. Existing fencing prevents many of the horses from even accessing the designated territory.

Logic and knowledge of the history of the land shows that the herd dates back to the battles between Native Americans and early settlers, although the agency maintains that the horses are feral animals that came from nearby tribal land following the Rodeo Chediski Fire in 2002. However they happen to be there, they do not deserve the fate of cruel helicopter roundups and slaughterhouses.

Please reconsider your plans to go through with this management plan for the Heber Wild Horses in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Another, more humane and sustainable plan is well worth the time and effort, if indeed, it is deemed absolutely necessary to remove some of the horses.

People come to visit your area because of the wild horses and bring many tax dollars to your community, why do you want to destroy everything that is wild and free? Wyoming is doing the exact same thing with their curlies, which bring tourism to their state.

Right now someone is killing the wild horses in the area, maybe because nobody values the horses contributions to the ecosystem in regards to helping control the fuel for fires. Keep removing horses and the west will go up in smoke.

Sincerely,