

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/25/2020 6:04:51 PM

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Comments:

This claim that the horses dispersed into the area from the reservation doesn't mean they aren't wild horses or that they aren't native species. Reservation horses are possibly domesticated, some at least, but native americans have rounded up wild horses since before Europeans invaded America.

The Forest Service and locals in the area like to refer to these horses as feral. This definitely doesn't exclude them from being protected under the 1971 wild and free roaming horses and burros act.

We all know that each year there are foals born within the HMA. They are wild horses that belong to the HMA, irregardless of whether or not their herd originated from a boundary outside the lines drawn by the BLM or Forest Service. These are unbranded Arizona wild horses that should be preserved, protected and left to thrive.

This proposal is no different from others put out by the BLM and Forest Service. It talks about multiple uses,(there are 2 cattle grazing permits within the HMA, and the shooter still hasn't been busted), there are blinders on when it comes to looking at ecology and damage caused by livestock. Within the proposal there are methods used to determine populations of wild horses. In 3 days flying over and counting they estimate and then double the count. From that, they assess how many should be removed to reach their proposed AML of 50-104 horses. How many are there? We know that in the last couple of years 26 (that we know of) have been shot! That's the locals who call them feral because the Forest Service calls them feral, taking management into their own hands. I wonder about the 2 grazing permit holders, what do they want to do with the horses?

The Heber wild horses ARE Heber wild horses, no matter how the Forest Service spins it! It's in the name... Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 - Require the FS to take a good hard look at all the internal cattle pasture fences and how the fences affect the ability of the horses to migrate for forage and water and to intermingle with each other. The internal fences give principle use to livestock when wild horses are to have principle use. Enlarging some gates and leaving them open at certain times does not allow for the free roaming of wild horses. The drought of 2018 is a perfect example of what can go wrong due to the fences having prevented bands of wild horses from accessing water.

The FS states "Unmanaged horses increase in population rapidly". Require the census numbers from 2005 to the present day that substantiates their claim that the Heber herd population has grown rapidly. Require factual herd population numbers and proof as in photos and other documentation since 2005 to the present day.

Require the Forest Service to provide scientific data that shows there is an overpopulation of horses in the Heber herd. They have provided no scientific data only an arbitrary and capricious appropriate management level (AML) of 50-104 horses. Keep in mind that if they put forth this plan they will aim to cull way below their upper limit of 104 horses. Even 104 horses is well below genetic viability of a wild horse herd. Make no mistake, this is a plan for the extinction of the Heber herd.

Require hard data that shows water and forage consumption of every grazing species in the forest both domestic and wild. Considering usage of only one species does not provide the scientific data to determine an appropriate population of any species in that area.

I have no doubt about why the Forest Service is planning on removing these horses. I am adamantly opposed to this plan. I specified what should be done at a minimum. Wild horses in the United States belong to the people, not the locals, the other users of the land and not the Forest Service or BLM. The Forest Service and BLM are tasked to protect them and they do not fall into the least important slot on the priority list. I suggest you do the right thing and removal and reduction of the area they are allowed is not right!

We all know that cattle and sheep do more damage, eat more and drink more. Removing the wild horses will do absolutely nothing to fix the problem.