

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/27/2020 9:00:31 PM

First name: Dianne

Last name: Douglas

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an American citizen and taxpayer, I am outraged over your proposal to remove most of the federally-protected wild horses from the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest. You said that you have set aside 19,700 acres for the wild horses to roam around on. How many acres have you set aside for livestock grazing? Your plan limits the horses' range to 21 square miles. The surrounding Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest covers more than 43 thousand square miles of public land. Your policy of removing horses to maximize private livestock grazing on public lands comes at a high price to American taxpayers, who are funding the cruel roundup programs, and to the wild horses, who pay with their families, their freedom and their lives. The horses being captured are healthy and fit - they are not starving as some western politicians and ranchers claim.

Anthony Madrid says the removed horses will not be killed, but there is no indication of what will happen to them.

Our public lands are being scoured of wild horses to make room for thousands of welfare cattle -- part of a giant federal entitlement program for commercial livestock interests funded by our tax dollars. This is exactly the kind of swamp that President Trump promised to drain.

America can't be great again if these national symbols of freedom are destroyed. Please stand with the 80 percent of Americans who want these iconic animals protected on our public lands.

Thank you for your consideration.