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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been monitoring the status of our wild horses. In response to the USFS scoping notice for the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan, I appreciate our Heber wild horses. Our taxes go to the preservation of our public lands for wild horses and for the Apache-Sitagreaves National Forest because these horses live in it. Note: the Appropriate Management Level (AML) must be in conformance with the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (WFRHBA). Viable herds cannot be less than 150 which is in the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Handbook to maintain genetic diversity. AUMs of forage allocation must be designated principally but not necessarily only to wild horses in the WFRHBA. Allow atleast 50% of forage in their own dedicated territory. Also any plan must prioritization preserving natural wild horse behaviors so that sex ratio skewing, castration, ovariectomy and sterilizations that alters a horse's ability to produce natural hormones must be stopped. However, the Heber wild horses and natural fires history means that horses outside of the territory must be managed through PZP and relocations not removals. There will be natural attrition to control populations. Fencing is now impeding horses from utilizing much of their territory and must be removed. Based on historic information, the Territory boundary is incorrect and so the Management Plan needs to use seasonal movement of horses and recommend that the boundary be redrawn to be in conformance with historic wild horse usage so they have access to suitable habitat all year. Include in the Plan all source documents regarding historic horse use in the appendix. Before drafting a Plan, USFS must conduct a current census to confirm the population number. Photo mark-recapture methodology should be used. I write this as Congress unanimously passes the WFRHBA because Americans like me care about our wild horses and burros. Since all Americans pay taxes that provide this, USFS must be fair to us! Thank you.