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Title:

Comments: I greatly appreciate the Heber wild equines. It is a great opportunity to visit the wild Heber herds. I have a strong appreciation for the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest all because the Heber wild equines live there. Here are the issues that the Management Plan must address: AML & DRAGE ALLOCATION - The Appropriate Management Level (AML) must conform with the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse & Drych Act (WFRHBA). The minimum standard for a genetically viable herd should be 150 equines (50 effective breeding mares). This should be recommended by the BLM Wild Horse & Durro Handbook in order to have an acceptable level of genetic diversity. AUMs or forage allocation within the Heber Wild Horse Territory must be designated "principally but not necessarily exclusively to wild horses" as outlined in the 1971 Act (WRFHBA). The Heber herd must be allocated 50% of the forage in their very own Territory. NATURAL BEHAVIORS: The Management Plan must prioritize preserving the natural behaviors of wild horses. The preserving of natural behaviors is a very important criterion for wild horse management. The following must be precluded from management actions - Sex Ratio Skewing: This causes stallion aggression due to unnatural ratio of males to females. Castration & amp; Ovarietomy & amp; other surgical alterations which alters the equine's ability to produce natural hormones and any fertility control that alters the production of natural hormones. MANAGEMENT & DESCRIPTION OF THE MANAGEMENT & AMDITION OF THE MANAGEMENT & DESCRIPTION OF THE M outside of the Territory through PZP and relocations not removals. The Heber horses located inside and outside their Territory can be easily controlled and reduced through natural attrition and the use of PZP. Volunteers are willing to work with the USFS to implement the humane management that prevents and excludes removals. This would allow wild equines to live and die wild as intended by the WFRHBA. FENCING: Fencing impedes wild equines from fully utilizing much of their Territory which prevents the wild equines from being removed. It's inhumane, wrong and not in conformance. BOUNDARIES: Seems to appear their Territory boundary was incorrectly drawn and adjacent lands that wild equines used for decades were omitted from the Territory boundary. The Management Plan must address seasonal movement of the equines. The Management Plan must make a recommendation that the boundary be redrawn with wild equine usage and the equines need to have suitable habitat throughout the year. All resource documents regarding historic equine use must be included in the Management Plan appendix. CENSUS: The USFS must conduct a current census to confirm the population numbers. Photo mark-recapture methodology must be used in the next census and forward after that. Americans care for the wild equines. The USFS must listen to the American public when creating a management plan for our cherished wild equines. Our public landscapes would not look as pretty without the wild equines to grace them. Please save the wild equines now and into the future. Thank you.