

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/4/2020 8:12:26 PM

First name: Kimberly

Last name: Airhart

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The following comments and suggestions are in reference to the USFS scoping notice regarding the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan:

1) The USFS is a 100% American citizen, tax payer funded federal agency, therefore, the American public, regardless of state of residence, and Congress, should be given the utmost consideration in any and all management plans considered. The 1971 WFRHBA was unanimously voted and passed as federal law by Congress, and at the overwhelming demand of the American people! The USFS is not above the law or the American people, the equitable, humane, sustainable management of these wild horses on their Congressionally designated wild horse habitats should be the paramount objective!

2) Establishing new AUMs should be calculated principally for wildlife & wild horses, not livestock! When people, myself included, travel to visit our wild places like public, park and forest lands, we want to see wild animals in their wild habitats, not wildlands overrun with domestic livestock? I am seeing this more and more often....it is sickening and offensive! I have notified my Senators, Congressmen and USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue that this is unacceptable!!

3) On range management of wild horses and lowering the population on a more natural timetable can be achieved with full implementation of PZP vaccine. Partnerships with advocacy groups, NGOs and trained volunteers provide the FREE human resource necessary to achieve and sustain a healthy, genetically viable AML

Methods such as sex ratio skewing, ovariectomy, and permanent sterilization should not be considered as they disrupt or destroy the hormones and natural behaviors necessary for any wild animal to adapt and survive. PZP vaccine when used correctly, can reduce or eliminate the need for roundups and removals. No tool works, if you do not use it, or use it incorrectly. USFS has a opportunity to lead the way and gain the support and favor of the American people by taking the required steps to manage the Heber Wild Horses using fertility control and volunteers that are ready to help! It has worked very well in the similar, but vastly larger Tonto National Forest & the Salt River Wild Horses & the Virginia Range Wild Horses in Nevada.

4) Current fencing is impeding the horses from fully utilizing much of THEIR territory, causing overgrazing of the small portion they have access to graze? This fencing also prohibits the wild horses from freely moving as needed seasonally, and their ability to access protective and historic usage. This is in direct violation to how and why Congress created the Heber Wild Horse Territory, and should be immediately removed!

5) This is a WILD HORSE TERRITORY.....domestic livestock operators should be offered other allotments outside this wildlife & wild horse territory. This would alleviate much of the contentious competition, conflict of private interest over public interest, allow for a slightly larger high AML of wild horses, encourage return of diverse wild animal species, including large predators, and return this domesticated forest territory back to the wild, magnificent land it once was! I can assure you, tourism will increase, when livestock decrease or are permanently removed! No one wants to camp, hike, photograph or visit a cow or sheep pen!!!!