Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/11/2020 1:05:40 PM
First name: Juliette
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor,
Thank you for reading my comments on managing wild horses on US Forest Lands, in particular the Arizona Heber herd.
It really chaps my derriere that vigilante cattle ranchers have taken it upon themselves to kill wild horses that they feel compete with their cattle for forage. Our public lands and the wild horses that live on them belong to all Americans, and they must be managed intelligently to preserve Public lands and their natural inhbitants for all Americans. not just private interests. The proposed WIld Horse and Burro management E/Aactions for the Heber herd must be humane, cost-effective, and based on scientific data, and should include the following parameters.

1. Establish a genetically sustainable population limit of at least 200 horses. The area is almost 20000 acres.

2. Humane fertility control (PZP vaccine) should be used to stabilize the Heber wild horse population and reduce it humanely over 5-10 years. Surgical sterilization on wild horses is totally unacceptable.

3. Boundaries of the Territory should be redrawn to accurately reflect the horses' historic and current habitat.

4. Protocols must be put in place for housing, care, placement and tracking of all horses removed from the Territory.The USFS must fully disclose and analyze its plans for any horses removed from the Territory, including where they will be housed, how they will be cared for, and what the Forest Service plans for their long-term placement and care. By law, the USFS may not destroy healthy horses or sell them for slaughter. The USFS must create a system for placing and tracking all horses removed from the Territory. This should include, but not be limited to, the implementation of a year-long adoption process, similar to that of the BLM, by which the adopter does not gain title to the horse until one year of ownership and care. The USFS must also develop a database for tracking the disposition of each horse as well as a system for checking potential adopters or purchasers for their history regarding horse adoptions, sales and past animal abuse. Processes like these will help ensure that the USFS is complying with Congress' directive to protect federally-protected wild horses and burros from slaughter.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Juliette Dauterive