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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I respectfully submit the following comments on the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan.

The Heber Wild Horses are loved by many. I have heard from many people that they want to see these beautiful animals and have been asked many times where they can be seen. Thus, they are a tourist attraction that provides some (albeit minor) economic stimulus for the small communities in the area. Although these horses are unlikely related to the WWI Army remount horses, a high percentage are wild having been born into the wild and many born to horses born into the wild. I personally have seen wild horses in the Heber Wild Horse Territory since the 1990s.

Appendix A - Design Criteria and Best Management Practices

As a Federal Agency, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act must be complied with. Any ground disturbing activities such as construction of new trap sites, retrofitting or new installation of cattle guards, new holding facilities, new stock tanks, new fencing/gates, prescribed burns, etc. would require a Section 106 review. It should be mentioned in this section.

Has there been any discussion with other wild horse management groups in the drafting of this plan? Discussions of this type may be very beneficial as the other management groups struggle with the same concerns.

Was shifting cattle grazing allotments to allow adequate forage for both cattle and the Heber Wild Horses considered in this plan? The Heber Wild Horse Territory is not that large and potentially could be excluded from cattle allotments.

I feel the management number of 50-104 horses is too low. Such a severe drop in the number of horses would interfere with gene flow. Additionally, to reduce the herd so drastically would likely involve inhumane procedures. Capture and sale of the horses would be a frightening experience for the animals and they would likely be sold to animal food companies. These beautiful creatures deserve much more than a frightening experience ending in slaughter. I support a slow, more humane reduction via contraceptives. If forage is a problem, shift cattle grazing allotments.

I would like to be included in future documentation regarding the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan.