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Title:

Comments: I am writing to state my objection to any plan that allows the feral horses to remain on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. The feral horses are devastating the habitat and the forest is severely overgrazed in areas where the horses have taken up residence. Contrary to claims by horse advocates, the horse herds DO NOT naturally migrate from area to area. The same herds are in the same small area day after day after day, until all forage is consumed. Some advocates take exception to the proven fact that there were only 7 horses on the forest in the 1980s. Regardless if there were 7, or 17, the population was very small and nowhere near the ridiculous numbers we have today. The correct number for an appropriate feral horse population is zero, but horse advocates even disagree with the proposed 50-100. If the herd went through the 1970-2000 period with less than a dozen, how do they now claim that 100 isn't enough? Maybe 200? 500? 1000? The reason is because they will never be content until the area that can be described as Game Management 3C is totally consumed with horses, to the detriment of all other species. This is madness. Stand up to the horse lobby, do what you know in your heart is scientifically appropriate and eliminate the feral horses, or you will open a Pandora's box of endless and frivolous lawsuits that will not end until there is a horse behind every pine tree in the forest. We are facing a biological disaster with these horses. Look at other areas where horses have been given carte blanche. Total destruction, yet horse advocates refuse to allow management. PLEASE do NOT let the horses destroy our beloved national forest!