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Organization:

Title:

Comments: We recently moved to the Heber/Overgaard area and our property backs to the Apache-Stigreaves National Forest. The greatest pleasure we have is the wonderful wildlife. Including the wild horses. We are learning how the forest service is planning to eradicate the herd (as we understand to accommodate the cattlemen, just like the "olden" days), through culling and birth control and depleting the herd to a low number guaranteeing the extinction.

How sad that you are falling prey to the money lords. We had a family of three that we would see, and they have been gone for 2 or 3 months. I can't help but think that they were shot after seeing the horrible atrocities that have been posted about the killings.

It is my understanding that this herd has descended from the original Spanish horses and have been roaming this area for hundreds of years. How could anyone want to destroy such a legacy and put an end to a beautiful part of the Arizona landscape. Shame on you.

I also understand that the Heber Herd is protected by the Wild-Free-Roaming Horses and Burro Act of 1971, protection on public lands, which includes the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest - over 2,700,000 acres if my research is correct. I have read that the numbers in the Heber Herd have remained around 250 for many years, which means that nature is taking care of the over population (minus of course the horrific killing). I also know that land management is important for our children and grandchildren to enjoy our plant. However, they should also be allowed the opportunity to see the beautiful wild horses that roam the area. Please do endanger their existence.

Therefore, I am STRONGLY voicing my objection to the Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan as it stands today. Do Not Reduce the herd to extinction levels. Reduce the use of public lands for money hungry cattle owners instead.