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Comments: This is our third response to the various plans proposed for the management of the wild horses in the Heber Wild Horse Territory. Established by act of Congress, 1971 to protect/manage 7 horses reported living in that area and which are now all dead and leaving no off spring, yet contains even more horses. The area designated, 19,000+ acres seemed adequate for the original seven, but the truth is, that seven was not all the horses roaming in the Heber Ranger District. We owned property off Forest Rd 51, boarding the forest and Overgaard since 1970 and we had visiting wild horses on our property that same year and every year thereafter until I fenced our property. The forest was not fenced at that time.

Not to (sorry) "beat a dead horse to death", but we have provided basically the same comments. First, the designated area is grossly inadequate. Second, our main concern is the humane treatment of all the horses and burros. We realize the problem was caused by human neglect in various ways and our recommendation for managing the number of horses is multi-year contraception. You mention it but you provide other options as well including round ups which are always bad and hurtful to the horses. Had the Forest Service started this type of program after the joint stipulation that dismissed the law suit's claim in 2007. It was not one of the stipulations, but we suggested it in a response email on 9/12/2008. We now hope this will be your primary method to reduce the horse numbers in the future plan for the entire district.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to comment.