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First name: Nancy

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello.

My heart is breaking again for our wild horses, and burros. This time for the Heber herd targeted. The lands you speak of, where the herds live free, are Public Lands. They are not lands for ranchers' cattle to graze upon. There is no cognitive thinking in your decision to rid those public lands of our beloved peoples' wild horses, and burros, leaving very little left, yet allowing cattle to graze on the public, and horses lands, at leisure. That is not good management. Why must our era kill off all our beautiful wildlife? Families will be separated, babies run into the ground, and all sent to slaughter. What if it were your own children, mothers, fathers, partners, with targets on their heads? Would you say, "oh well. We have way to many people on these lands, so sorry to my families, but you must be rounded up, and be killed"? I doubt that you would not want to be in the horses, and burros hooves. Please be responsible, and leave the horses where they are. Use PZP, which has been used for decades, as the source of birth control. It has been proven to work, where these other barbaric sources put forward, have no proven abilities, but to place more pain, and death upon our wonders. Please do not let friends, family, or palm greasers to influence your decisions. Morality inin question here, and their are no morals, or ethics, to remove those horses. Remove the cattle instead. The below is some points taken from the AWH. Thank you.

The plan sets the AML extremely low at just 50-104 wild horses on 19,700 acres. Even at high AML, that's one horse for every 394 acres! This range is far too low to maintain a self-sustaining, genetically viable population of wild horses in the Territory.

With the new AML, at low AML, wild horses are provided just 600 Animal Unit Months while cattle are permitted 5,730 Animal Unit Months to graze within the Territory. Thus, the Forest Service must adjust livestock use in the Territory in order to give wild horses their fair share of the resource.

The last population survey in the Territory found that many of the horses were outside of the Territory boundary. Instead of immediate removal, the Forest Service should make every effort to relocate those horses within the boundary.

The plan provides for fertility control to be used to control the population growth rate of the horses in the Territory.

The Forest Service must consider how:

(1) the use of these options will impact the health of the herd when the population is maintained at such a small population.

(2) PZP has over 30 years of proven efficacy and should be the preferred tool for use in the Territory.

(3) IUDs have not been proven humane or effective in wild, free-roaming herds and should be eliminated from further analysis.

If removals must occur within the Territory, they should be done exclusively through bait-trapping and over time, to meet adoption demand and ensure that the Forest Service does not add to the thousands of wild horses already in off-range holding facilities across the country.

Finally, the Heber wild horses have been the target of illegal hunting since 2018. The Forest Service must work harder to protect these federally protected wild horses from harm and to find the person(s) responsible.