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Comments: I am very concerned about the maintaining of the wild horse and burro population, given the BLM's Heber Wild Horse Territory Plan.

I think it's very misguided to set the AML so extremely low, at just 50-104 wild horses on 19,700 acres, or one horse for every 394 acres. This is too low to maintain a self-sustaining genetically viable population of wild horses. In the last almost 20 years, there have been large removals of wild horses from US preserves. I do believe that the wild horses and burros are a national treasure, and are considered such by a large number of Americans. It would be a shame, and shameful, to force their numbers to the point of extinction, which this extreme measure might very possibly do, or start the mechanisms in order to have this eventual outcome.

The plan by the BLM provides for fertility control involving IUD's which have not proven to be safe, humane or effective in wild free-roaming herd populations. Using IUD's might further threaten the already low herd populations.

Porcine Zona Pellucida, or PZP, is a fertility-control vaccine given to female horses on the range through an injection via remote darting. PZP is scientifically proven, with over three decades of use, and is recommended by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for use in federally protected wild horse herds.

If the horses were found to be outside of the Territory boundary, the Forest Service should make every effort to relocate those horses inside the boundary, instead of opting for immediate removal of the horses.

The Forest Service must make every effort not to add to the population of wild horses in off-range holding facilities. There have already been too many round-ups of these beautiful animals.

The Forest Service should be doing everything to protect the wild horses from further depletion of their populations, including protecting the wild horses from illegal hunting.