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Comments: I am asking the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Plan to consider the following when coming up with their recommendation for Heber Wild Horse Territory Management Plan Project.

It is hard to understand how 50 to approximately 100 wild horses on 19,700 acres is a realistic number to maintain a self-sustaining, genetically viable population of wild horses in the Territory. That is one horse per 394 acres.

With the new plan, wild horses are provided just 600 animal units while cattle are permitted 5,730 animal unit months to graze within the territory. The Forest Service must adjust livestock use in the Territory in order to give wild horses their fair share of the resource.

What I find most disturbing, besides the plan being considered and the murder of the wild horses most recently, is the inequity of grazing land. Why is it the cattle and sheep are allowed or will be allowed to graze an enormous portion of land and the horses will be removed to such a small number? This is not private land, this is public land, owned by all Americans. It is the will of 80% or more of Americans who want the wild horses to graze and be wild and free. If the fear is wildlife not having enough forage to graze on, then there should also be no cattle or sheep grazing the lands either, or at least it should be equitable. It appears big ranchers are having the say and not 80% of Americans, even though this is not their land. Why? Is it politics?

The plan provides fertility control to be used to control the population growth rate of the horses in the Territory. The Forest Service must consider how:

- \* The use of these options will impact the health of the herd when the population is maintained at such a small population.

- \* PZP has over 30 years of proven efficiency and should be the preferred tool for the Territory.

- \* IUD's have not been proven humane or effective in wild, free-roaming herds and should be eliminated from further use and analysis.

If removals must occur within the Territory, they should be done exclusively through trapping and over time, to meet adoption demand and ensure that the Forest Services 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.

thank you for your consideration to protect our American icon, the wild horse.