

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/6/2021 12:24:19 PM

First name: Cynthia Smoot

Last name: Weller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This plan concerns me for many reasons. First and foremost, an AML of 50-104 wild horses on 19,700 acres is FAR too low. Even at the high AML, that's one horse for every 394 acres! Those numbers are far too low to sustain genetic viability.

Under the 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. The Forest Service must adjust livestock use in the Territory to give wild horses their fair share of the resource.

Regarding the use of fertility control: The Forest Service must consider how these options will impact the health of the herd, especially with such a small population. While PZP has a long track record of proven efficacy. IUD's have not proven to be humane or effective. PZP is clearly the method of choice.

If there are removals, they should be done over time with bait-trapping, to ensure that more horses don't end up languishing in off range holding facilities.

Finally, I'm very disturbed that 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 the opportunity to comment.