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First name: Jean Last name: Wallace Organization:

Title:

Comments: The plan set for the AML is far too low to maintain a self-sustaining, genetically viable population of wild horses in the Territory. 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. Regarding fertility control, PZP has over 30 years of proven efficacy and should be the preferred tool for use. IUDs are not humane or effective in wild. 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. Please stop running these horses to their deaths with helicopters!

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. Your consideration is greatly appreciated. Thank you.