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Organization:

Title:

Comments: American taxpayers' wild horses are federally protected. The US Forest Service and BLM have an obligation to put the needs of these horses ahead of private interests. I read with great interest the Heber horse management plan. It has several serious shortcomings that I hope you will consider changing. For instance, it is wholly unnecessary to ever run a horse down with a helicopter. It is the hugest red flag to me that you still do not understand horses and do not understand your jobs. Horses are prey animals. They will kill themselves to get away. I get that you have certain prohibited acts in your plan with respect to helicopter use. Unfortunately, the reality is that the internet is replete with footage of horses being injured, killed, and literally knocked off their feet by lowlife helicopter "cowboys." There is footage of mares aborting foals in flight. Authorizing the use of helicopters to run these horses down is unacceptable. Your plan also allows for horses to be shot with electric devices, roped, hog-tied, and dragged. And, for what? To clear the way for private cattle interests? It defies logic that you need 394 acres per horse. You do not. As an American taxpayer, I do not want welfare ranchers exploiting lands that belong to me and killing my horses to do it. These horses belong there. They have every right to be there. These greedy ranchers have no right to be there and refuse to co-exist with wildlife. American taxpayers get no real benefit from ever dealing with a welfare rancher. The beef industry will be just fine without them. Further, several Heber horses have been murdered these past few years. What have you done about that? How is violating these horses further and rewarding those who want them removed protecting the horses? The answer is clear: First, remove private cattle interests. Then, re-evaluate grazing and water resources. To the degree management is still needed, your own plan shows that they can be managed with humane birth control. Stop sending our horses to feed lots. You are creating your own problems. Your own plan states that you may have to re-introduce new horses because the herd will be so small that genetic diversity will suffer. Then how does it make sense to remove so many in the first place? Please, PLEASE, remove helicopters, electric prods, and roping, hog tying, and dragging from your plan. These horses deserve better. You owe them protection. Thank you.