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First name: Marie
Last name: Marinakis
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I am extremely upset to learn that you are planning to reduce the number of the Heber wild horses of the Sitgreaves National Forest to approx. 50 animals while allowing 500 cow/calf pairs to graze in the horse's habitat. Wild horses deserve this space more than cows. Eating red meat has high links to cancer, and Americans are reducing their consumption of red meat to save their own lives. I have personally eliminated red meat from my diet after seeing the devastation to wild horse herds across the US to appease the cattle lobby. The Forest Service should be advocating for everyone - not just ranchers.

Wild horses are provided just 600 Animal Unit Months while cattle are permitted 5,730 Animal Unit Months to graze within the Territory. Thus, the Forest Service must adjust livestock use in the Territory in order to give wild horses their fair share of the resource. The Forest Service should make every effort to relocate those horses within the boundary and provide fertility control to keep the population from increasing.
(1) the use of these options will impact the health of the herd when the population is maintained at such a small population.
(2) PZP has over 30 years of proven efficacy and should be the preferred tool for use in the Territory.
(3) IUDs have not been proven humane or effective in wild, free-roaming herds and should be eliminated from further analysis.
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.
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.