

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/10/2021 11:47:58 PM

First name: Mary E

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am writing to appose the removal or administration of chemical birth control. This is the last herd in America that has not been ruined by the above. The main stressor of this herd is gun shot, drought and livestock. The horses have been able to self-regulate which is their natural tendency to do so. They (the horses) know how much foliage is available even after sharing with other wildlife and livestock.

The academy of science report on one remote herd that had not been gathered nor pzped grew at about 5% a year. Some years more, some years less. This is what the Heber herd has done. If they lost more of the herd one year the next year the birth rate naturally increased. If they had less foliage due to drought or competition the following year they have had less birth.

If you would have been monitoring this herd like many horse observers have, you would have been able to witness this about Wild Horses. Wild Horses are the oldest mammal that have evolved in the US and have this more advanced quality about them if allowed to be. The Heber herd carries Old Spanish breed dna and possible some of the original native horse, plus of course additional stock through "the Centuries".

Many would like to keep this herd intact and for you to no longer see them as a nuisance to your livestock and hunting management duties. Possibly hire a Wild Horse and Burro specialist (non-livestock) to observe the horses and see the obstacles they have. Removal of old fencing so they can roam the full area, add fencing where you do not want them to go and put in one of those state-of-the-art water systems the government has built for other permittees in other areas.

Call out to the Wild Horse observers for volunteers, there are thousands of Americans that would love to be around the herds. Be blessed to have them under your care. We are all migrants into the land of the horse. Where horses roamed in the millions in their cradle of evolution. Bison and Elk are Siberian natives, the horse is Ours.

I have watched this herd for many years now and love that they are free from over management, although, some protection from ecological sociopaths (guns) would help, and maybe making the ranchers sign sensitive area agreements and clean up after themselves (old fences etc). So yes, let them be. This FS is better off with less livestock, more horses.

Mary Young

PS I read your Plan and it is incomplete and not enough to justify putting more horses in the Auction ring. Also, it is well known that when this plan began that the only person on the team that was an actual observer of the Heber Horses was asked to leave. Thus, it became one sided toward commercial interests.