Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/12/2021 3:35:04 PM
First name: Tammy
Last name: McCullough
Organization:
Title:
Comments:
It is with great concern that the BLM is once requesting an implementation of procedures that is guaranteed to cause the demise of this wild mustang, to reduce this herd to 50 horses is not managing them it is destroying them. Your term TMP is frightening if this is considered a standard way of doing business.
It has been successfully documented that the use of PZP in managing her size is highly effective, humane, and much more cost effective.
The plan sets the AML extremely low at just 50-104 wild horses on 19,700 acres. Even at high AML, that's one horse for every 394 acres! This range is far too low to maintain a self-sustaining, genetically viable population of wild horses in the Territory.
With the new AML, at 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. Thus, 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.
The plan provides for fertility control to be used to control the population growth rate of the horses in the Territory. The Forest Service must consider how:
(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.
There comes a point when we must look at our actions and our true intentions and say will I be able to look at myself in the mirror if I go along with these actions knowing the true intent behind them. I would not be able to Will You?