

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/17/2021 6:17:05 PM

First name: lex

Last name: glen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Heber Wild Horse Territory Plan #18916 is an outrage!

Grazing of privately owned animals should NEVER be given priority over the federally protected wild horse who live there.

My family is disgusted by this preferential treatment given to private individuals over the wishes of the majority of Americans. Preserving these iconic symbols of America and protecting them from slaughter is the wishes of American taxpayers and yet you are planning to misappropriate tax-payer funds in contrary efforts to support private ranching interests.

Additionally why has it not been made a priority to track down and STOP individual or individuals who have illegally killed 28 federally protected wild horses under your watch?! - It seems likely that those who stand to gain are guilty of these killings and yet you are turning a blind eye. Please finally prioritize finding those responsible for these killings!

Your Heber Wild Horse Territory Plan #18916 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.