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Comments: I strongly disagree with the U.S. Forest Service plan in managing Arizona's Heber wild horses and urge the Forest Service to use an ethical plan that will not result in the total decimation of the Heber wild horses.

The following key points address why the U.S. Forest Service needs to change the current plan:

Reducing the Heber wild horse herd to just 50 to 104 wild horses will result in such a low population that will not be self-sustaining in the territory- which would result in a complete decimation of the unique Heber wild horse herd.

Cattle are permitted 5,730 Animal Unit Months to graze within the territory while wild horses are given only 600 Animal Unit Months. In response, the Forest Service must adjust livestock use in the territory to address this inequity and give wild horses their fair share of the resource.

I urge that the population be humanely managed using PZP to control the herd number as it is more effective and safe than previous barbaric fertility control procedures such as ovariectomy.

If removals are necessary within the territory, they should be carried out using bait-trapping and relocated to inside the territory's bounds instead of adding to the thousands of wild horses in off-range holding facilities.

The Heber wild horses are a federally protected wild horse population- please consider the ramifications of the current plan and use an ethical approach to managing the Heber wild horse population instead.

Thank for your consideration.