Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/18/2021 10:31:05 PM
First name: Kristen
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Title:
Comments: The thought of any number of these horses being removed is disappointing. I moved to arizona 2 years ago and one of the main reasons we chose the area that we did was to be near and able to see the wild horses. Though we live in the lower salt river region, we frequently travel to Heber to see the herd.

These horses are an attraction in the area, countless numbers of people travel just to see them. Sure the area is beautiful but everyone I talk to is there for these horses, removing them will discourage people from visiting and making the trip out there. I know it would discourage me and my family. I can also tell you that it may also discourage homeowners from purchasing in the area, it did for me as I was considering purchasing a home near Heber.

There must be a better way to manage the size of the herd that doesn't include reducing the current size so drastically. There is no way that reducing the size of the herd to 50- 104 horses guarantees their survival. If you allow this, you may essentially be signing off on the end of this herd. Not to mention the idea of an annual reduction to the herd - Is the intention of this plan to continue stating that the size of the herd is just too large and continue removing them until they are all gone? These horses have plenty of land to roam and are for the most part a healthy herd. Please let nature do it's job.

While I can't agree with the removal I can understand the need for the herd to not continue growing at the rate it has been. I agree that a female contraceptive program much like they have with the lower salt river horses may be necessary as a way to control the size of the herd moving forwards.

I know I'm not alone in my opinion of these horses. I hope you listen to the public, and all of our concerns and consider other options. Thank you.