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Comments: Heber wild horses have been undisturbed for the past 15 years and they are doing well. Their territory defined as to where they are now and that includes the Heber Territory and the Black Mesa Ranger District and any areas that they roam in the Forest.

Because the horses have not been disturbed in the forest since before 2006, this herd would be a great study group by a university. They have not doubled in size every four years as purported by BLM mantra. If so, there would be now nearly 3,000 animals as of today. The recent count was 450 animals. So I strongly the proposed plan should NOT be used.

Wild Horses are protected by PL 92-195, the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 which states "It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands. (This means where they are now, they should be protected in the forest which is considered public lands.) It does not give permission for the government to interfere, to move them or rent their land for grazing

Cattle are all throughout the forest in allotments and most often are the ones that damage the habitat. So why remove the horses?

The allowable numbers set by the FS of under 50-104 animals are not a viable number and illegal under the Act.

The use of fertility control drugs as proposed is harmful to the horses, this has been proven. These drugs cause endocrine dysfunction, permanent infertility in as short as 4 consecutive years (ISPMB's studies on two herds). FS should say No to any sterilizations or fertility control drugs.

T FS must do an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) because of the magnitude of all of the changes which are so immense that they will have a significant impact on the environment, and therefore an EIS is required, pursuant to NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act).

These wild horses are a national treasure and must be given their rights to survive under the law.

US Forest Service NEPA Projects