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First name: Priscilla

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Thank you in advance for accepting and considering my concerns about the well-being of the horses who currently reside in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in Heber, Arizona. It has come to my attention that this topic is being revisited for consideration. It is my belief and commitment that humans should not be managing any wild horses (or any animals) by keeping their population numbers suppressed, whether through culling, relocation or forcibly drugging them with the fertility control pesticide PZP. There is mounting scientific evidence PZP has serious physical and behavioral effects on wild horses. Recent research has demonstrated repeated applications of PZP can cause physical damage to treated mares; it is not completely reversible; it can increase mortality in foals post-PZP effectiveness; and it interferes with herd cohesion, which is critical to the overall health of wild horses. In addition, preventing mares from producing foals can create a genetic bottleneck that may ultimately extinguish the species as a whole. Congress has declared 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 public lands. New studies indicate that PZP use is harassing, and even killing, wild horses in ways not considered as part of the initial registration process. In conclusion, I implore you take into consideration this scientific information and vote to let these animals be truly free and not interfere with their process.