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Comments: I have read your draft proposal to significantly reduce the amount of wild horses living in the Heber Wild Horses preservation area.

as far as I can gather your information says that reducing the current population of horses (but not cattle grazing) is needed to restore plant life currently under threat.

I would like to offer these observations: The wild horse population is identified by you as healthy with no signs of ill health due to forage depletion, in that case there seems no reason to cull any amount of the overall number.

The preserve is doing what it set out to do in conserving these wild horses, unique to US history and location.

The proposed size of the Heber Wild Horses by the draft proposal seems way too small to guarantee a viable self sustaining wild horse population.

The options for holding some of these horses in corrals seems excessively cruel, being wild they will undergo significant trauma through capture and such limited coral space. The proposal is not clear about how long these temporary corals will hold captured horses.

The option of private buyers, paying such low amounts per horse makes me wonder what the buyers will do with them, and this is not addressed in the proposal.

I note you no longer consider fertility options.

I do not understand what would happen in your preferred option which would be the adoption of horses? Would you leave the present numbers intact if some were 'adopted'?

Many who have good knowledge of the Heber Wild Horses state that the population size is more or less stable, but drought in recent years may have contributed to a small decline in numbers which the modelling doesn't take account of. I have not managed to find the census of 2019-2020 which you say is somewhere else in the document.

in terms of a depletion of flora due to grazing the report says it is partly due to wild horse grazing, I have not seen any draft proposals that deal with domestic cattle grazing, if they affect the areas the report says is suffering fauna depletion.

Flora enrichment can be accomplished, if necessary for the survival of wild horses and wild fowl and domestic cattle, and possibly wild deer on this land has to be accomplished without culling, if the populations of wild horses begins behaviours which indicate a lack of sufficient forage, that is the time to act, because this is their reserve and they are protected.

At this time when wild species are so threatened with extinction, and the overall numbers of these horses relatively low, they should be celebrated for their enrichment of US Fauna, and the fact that they are doing well celebrates the Actions taken so far to preserve them. They appear in very good health, their numbers are really very small, I propose that the Heber Wild Horses, the envy of wild horse lovers around the world and so particular to US history be left alone in safety from further human encroachment.

Yours sincerely,

C.Ostrer