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Comments: I am hereby submitting the following information for the Administrative Record.

In the summer of the year 2016 two horses, Snip and Diesel and a mule named Little Bit died while under the care of the USFS, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. These animals were considered government livestock. They died horrible deaths as a result of dehydration and starvation due to the neglect of the Forest Service employees who were responsible for their care.

A FOIA request response stated that the employees who were responsible for the inhumane deaths "Failed to provide proper oversight of government livestock". Absent from the FOIA request response was the fact that the animals died. The three range division employees who were in charge of the care and welfare of the animals got off with mild consequences.

The Forest Service neglected to properly and humanely care for those two horses and one mule which died as a result. Just three animals and they didn't get it right! The punishment for those responsible was next to nothing. And yet we are supposed to entrust the Forest Service with the care and protection of a herd of wild horses when they have developed a plan that will destroy the herd? A herd which has also been targeted in killing sprees and consequently the deaths of dozens of horses! The HWHT management plan and EA show no intention of protecting the individual horses or the herd as a whole.

The ghosts of horses past

April 19, 2018 - by News Director

Editorial By Dexter K. Oliver

Excerpt:

CLIFTON - The bones are all gone. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) surreptitiously cleaned up the evidence of the shameful debacle that occurred in the Clifton Ranger District during the summer of 2016. Dereliction of duty killed the two USFS horses, Diesel and Snip, and the mule, Little Bit, just as surely as the Arizona summer sun and no water for four weeks. This might seem like old news but not in light of new information.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for USFS disciplinary action reports have recently shown a complete breakdown in consistency with USFS protocol on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (A-SNF). The "misconduct" notices of the USFS employees responsible for the cruel deaths of the three equines were listed in the reports this way: "Failed to provide proper oversight of government livestock". No mention of them dying.

At the time, Carol Telles was the ranger and Allen Graves and Tyler McCafferty were the range division employees. All had responsibility for the safety and welfare of the livestock. The "Corrective Action" printed in the USFS reports list one "Letter of Reprimand" and two actions of "Suspension (of) 14 Days or Less". Which translates to a slap on the wrist and a vacation of maybe one or two days, who knows? The USFS is less than transparent about the disaster.

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