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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I OPPOSE your plan to remove hundreds of wild horses from the Heber Territory. Your AMIL is extremely low with only 50-104 wild horses on 19,700 acres! Your AML is a plan for extinction especially since you also want to use PZP, Gonacon, and possibly IUDs on the few horses remaining. This makes no sense and is just more of the same "management-to-extinction" agenda from the BLM and FS. IUD's have never been proven humane or effective in wild herds, so why is this even being considered? The FS also claims that the herd is healthy and in good shape, so why do they want to remove so many?

With your new low AML, according to your plan, wild horses are provided just 600 Animal Unit Months, yet cattle are permitted 5,730 Animal Unit Months to graze within the Territory. So why doesn't the FS adjust livestock use in the Territory so that the wild horses can have their fair share of the resources? As usual, the ranching industry is given preference and the wild horses are always the scapegoats to be cruelly removed so they can be replaced with more cattle. There isn't a wild horse overpopulation problem, there is a livestock overpopulation problem. I noticed that since it was determined that the landscape had improved over time with more food available you decided to increase the grazing allotments from 25% to 35%. So why the need to remove the horses if there is plenty to eat and the water supply is favorable? My only conclusion is you want to remove them because you favor the ranching industry's profits over protecting our wild horses and don't want to do your job to uphold the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 which forbids their removal unless an excess can be proven. How does the BLM and FS get away with breaking the law?? Why are the wild horses always blamed for destroying the landscape when there are way more cattle in the area? The cattle are the invasive species and are known to degrade the ecosystem yet the war on the wild horses/burros just never ends!

Another lie that is constantly perpetrated by the BLM is that the wild horses' population doubles every four years. That is NOT true in herds that are left alone and I suspect the FS already knows that. This herd hasn't been rounded up for 15 years so their family hierarchy is intact which means they control their reproduction. The older stallions impart their wisdom to the younger males which keeps the population from increasing too quickly. When the BLM comes in and rounds them up, it destroys their family bonds and the younger males no longer have been taught the rules and end up mating way too young which quickly increases their numbers. So I guess the BLM creates its own self-fulfilling prophecy by constantly rounding them up, which cause them to start over reproducing. If their numbers had actually doubled every four years since the 2006 lawsuit that prohibited them from being rounded up, there would now be over 3,000 and as you know, there are only 450. Please, just leave them alone.

Another issue is that 28 Heber horses have been murdered over the past few years and no one has ever been caught. So picking your extremely low AML out of thin air, makes their ability to survive and thrive even riskier.

I am just so tired of the US govt. going out of its way to malign the wild horses in favor of the ranching industry. Wild horses are highly intelligent, family oriented, adaptable beings who belong on our public lands as they have for many, many years. The cattle are looked at as dollar signs and are given easy access to graze on our public lands with few if any restrictions. This is a losing proposition for the landscape and the wild horses and burros who are treated like inanimate objects with no feelings or rights.