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Comments: I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the Heber horse territory. The starting number with horses is way too high, when we evaluated this territory 6 years ago with an assembled team of experts across the United States their recommendation was 1 band consisting of a stud and up to 6 mares. I still agree with this. I think that you will be overwhelmed very quickly with the number of horses that you plan to leave in this area. It will be a lot more work and money to care for them than what you might expect. Horse enthusiasts will be excited at first but they won't be anywhere to be found when the work really begins in 3 or 4 years.

Another problem I foresee is the fencing around the area. It will need to have plenty of signage explaining that if fences are cut or gates are left down, that horses found in non-horse areas will have to be removed. However, knowing from experience, this will be an ongoing battle especially in a dry year like this one. There will be people who want to open fences to allow the horses to get to other areas for feed and water. It will need to be known in the horse community that any horses outside of the designated areas are subject to removal from all Forest Service Land. This is an ideal year for people to go out and see the damage that has been caused by the feral horses, especially around the limited watering holes, due to the unmanaged amount of horse grazing.