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Organization:

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Comments: I am submitting my comments in opposition to the gather of the Heber Wild Horses. I would submit the count of 800 proposed wild horses, where is the science in this count as advocates on the ground are seeing half of that number. On my recent trip 3 weeks ago to the Heber/Sitgreaves Forest... We drove throughout much of the region and counted less than two dozen horses. The condition of the land was obviously heavily overgrazed by the cattle that were there prior. I oppose this gather as the AML is not science based, nor honoring the original Territory that was allotted for this herd at the 1971 Wild Horse and Burro Act. The amount proposed to remove leaves this herd at an unsustainable and genetically unviable herd compromising their diversity. There is documentation via Interviews of local long term ranchers who talk of this herd being in areas far beyond the proposed herd allotment. I am proposing that the Cattle leases are removed from the Wild Horse Territory and the round up is on hold until proper science is completed to declare what the original territory of the Heber Wild horse herd prior to the 1971 WHBA.

Cordially,

Melody DeBenedictis