Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/21/2021 10:24:56 PM
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Comments: Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack,

In regards to the Heber Horse Herd Under The WIld and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971,
Given THEIR OWN TERRITORY in 1974, and the current removal/control plan of Apache Sitgreaves National Forest-
I am cOMPLETELY OPPOSED to this plan to remove and control with artificial methods on the horse herd stated above.

This herd has natural PREDATORS AND INCLEMENT weather to control numbers. It is natural selection and the horses have been doing it since they arrived in that area hundreds of years ago.
The 2005 comment being used for LIVESTOCK on the Chedeski fire area was 16 years ago and specific species of "livestock" never mentioned.
Taking away or killing 300 horses and leaving barely 100 will NOT provide enough population or genetic diversity to keep a healthy viable herd. Also wild hers defend each other and their makeup of individuals is paramount.
The 100 number that is trotted out for remaining horses being castrated and females given a poisonous pesticide for birth control is UNACCEPTABLE.
The allowance of euthanasia during the "TREATMENT PLAN" has no impartial witnesses, so which horses being shot and really why is questionable at best.
Furthermore the allowance of euthanasia during the "TREATMENT PLAN" has no impartial witnesses, so horses may be harmed in a bad capture process and then shot and once again the real reason is questionable at best.
When horses are captured in this plan, how do we know all is being done so they are not hurt. Also this argument ties to the" euthanasia option."

As a final but major point,the failure of the USDA and U.S. Forest Service to find the murderers of entire families is inexcusable. The number of horses and units of horses living ogether has taken a significant hit already in regards to population and genetic diversity. Furhtermore, leaving animals to die in pain and letting them rot are the workings of violent, dangerous minds with no regard for the law. Where are our tax dollars going? Not to the plans at Sitgreaves National Forest, obviously.

I thank you for perusing my points on this subject.

Walter Loscher, Long time Arizona resident