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Comments: I am writing to comment on the proposed Heber Wild Horse Territory management plan. First of all, the determined "appropriate management level" of horses in the plan is too low & I would like to ask you to increase it. Whenever I read these plans, whoever is writing them seems baffled as to why the horses are using areas outside of their "designated territory." It is because they are animals! They do not understand our arbitrary human-defined boundaries. Please take into consideration all of the horses sighted when setting an "appropriate management level," not just those that were spotted inside the designated territory.

Second, I would like to ask you to remove helicopter roundups as an approved way to remove horses. Also, any removal of horses, regardless of the gather method, should be an absolute last resort. The horse population should be managed almost exclusively by more humane methods, such as PZP.

I would also like to see you remove using electric prods on wild horses altogether. In the current plan there are so many exemptions & specifications on if/when/how electric prods may be used that it just seems it would be much too easy for someone to abuse. I hope you will remove any use of electric prods on the wild horses.

Finally, I object to the following statement on the final page of Appendix E: "Excess animals, for which adoption demand by a qualified applicant does not exist, shall be destroyed in the most humane manner possible." Any horses that you insist on rounding up & removing need to be protected & cared for for the rest of their natural lives. If that means it costs the government money, then it costs the government money. Killing horses for no other reason than not being able to find an adoptive home in a timely manner is absolutely unacceptable!

Thank you for your time & consideration. I hope to see some of these changes implemented in the final plan.