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Comments: I just wish to express my overwhelming concern for our wonderful Heber Wild Horse Herd, here in Arizona, with regard to the Forest Service's planned intentions to OVER-Regulate our herd's population and just HOW this is intended to play out.

Wild herds, including the Heber herd/bands, are amazing at managing themselves and their population, keeping family bands together as they need and rely on each member. The planned, extreme intrusions will decimate these strong family bonds and cause the herd to be vulnerable and weaken their chances to survive and thrive as they are NOW and have been doing for decades. They have lived in their present habitat without being problematic to their own environment and the surrounding area,--most damage is done by the free roaming cattle of ranchers who lease the FS lands.

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 established by Congress provides for their protection from--capture, branding, harassment and death. They should be protected in their current forest environs by the FS itself as these horses are an integral part of the natural system of public lands. (just like deer, bear and elk)

Furthermore, the setting of Appropriate Management Levels for the herd is both INappropriate and ILLegal under the afore stated Congressional ACT.

Therefore, I say NO to sterilization methods and fertility control drugs. They will do explicit harm to the horses, the herd and then the environment.

This herd, left undisturbed by BLM/FS for more than a decade represents a healthier herd than those who have been accosted by round-ups, population control drugs resulting in so much family/band/herd interference. There is a remarkable, natural hierarchy among the wild herds and their social structure is what keeps the herd safe. When left alone, it fosters strong-functioning healthy behaviors due to intact family units with elder members in charge.

I believe WE ALL must leave all WILD Herds alone, and continue to allow the Heber herd to remain undisturbed. Hopefully, very soon, we will allow other herds and bands across the nation to return to unmolested "Herd HEALTH" again-- Before it is too late!!.