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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I respectfully request that a new plan be developed for humane management of the Heber wild horses. As an Arizona resident for the past 62 years, I have travelled extensively around the state and consider the Heber wild horses to be an essential part of the states's pioneer history and deserving of our protection. The local needs for open grazing and reducing the size of the herd can co-exist through humane birth control via PZP injections. Other methods of birth control negatively effect the horses instincts and existence in the wild. It is expensive to round up and properly care for horses, when the horses can be cared for in the wild. Especially in the summer months, Heber's area economy depends on tourism and wild horses maintained in their habitat will positively impact the local businesses. Reducing the herd to 50-100 will negatively effect their survival as that small a herd doesn't have the genetic variability to sustain itself in a healthy manner.