

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/23/2021 12:51:15 AM

First name: Joni

Last name: Seal

Organization:

Title:

Comments: PLEASE STOP THIS SENSELESS DESTRUCTION OF LIVES FOR GREED! I fear the time may soon arrive when no wild mustang herds will run free on our western plains. They don't deserve to suffer from hunger, thirst, infection or pain from the inhumane treatment by the U.S Forest Service. There are humane methods to control the population and share space with (greedy) ranchers. Please give serious consideration to my comments in response to the proposal to remove wild horses from the Heber Wild Horse Territory in Arizona.

The very low, proposed appropriate management level (AML) calls for unnecessary and drastic reduction of the herd and should be re-evaluated not only to preserve a self-sustaining, genetically viable population of horses in this Territory, but because the only reason such action is deemed necessary is to appease greedy ranchers who want priority to graze their private herds - on our public, tax-payer supported land - for the sake of profit!

I request the Forest Service consider in its plan:

(1) The use of humane, non-permanent fertility control, like PZP, over mass roundups. PZP has over 30 years of proven efficacy and should be the preferred tool for humane population management in the Territory. This will ensure enough mares are vaccinated to reduce population growth rates, humanely reduce population numbers over time and maintain the health of the herd;

(2) That if removals must occur within the Territory, they should be done exclusively through bait-trapping and over time, to meet adoption demand and ensure that the Forest Service does not add to the thousands of wild horses already in off-range holding facilities across the country; and

(3) The Forest Service work harder to protect these federally protected wild horses from harm and to find the person(s) responsible for illegally hunting, killing and maiming the Heber horses in recent years.

I love wild horses and as a taxpaying American, this land belongs to me. These horses belong to me and my taxes pay the salaries of the U.S. Forest Service and other elected officials. I'm appalled that the greed of private and corporate ranchers continues to influence Forest Service officials to stray from their responsibility to protect our wild herds, act unethically in the interest of greed and act soullessly in destroying living creatures.

Please end these drastic population reductions through such cruel measures. Put your brain, creativity - and soul - into finding humane and collaborative solutions to this problem. There's plenty of land for everyone if they are only willing to settle for a few less dollars of profit. Thank you.