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First name: Barbara
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Title:
Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Many people mention the Wild Horse and Burro Act, but these are not wild horses, they are feral horses. When horse slaughter was eliminated, the number of horses treated inhumanely, including being turned loose onto public lands, skyrocketed(pers com Greenlee County Animal Control; horse owner and breeder near Heber; Dr Peder Cuneo, U of A; etc). It is criminal what is happening with the so-called Salt River Wild Horse Management area by the group of the same name. The resource is being destroyed, especially the riparian areas. Truck loads of hay are being brought in and fed to the horses, which is NOT ALLOWED BY THE US FOREST SERVICE for legitimate livestock operators to do(pers com, USFS). The exploding horse population in Nevada is contributing to it's desertification; this can be extrapolated to this forest and state as well, as well meaning but naive individuals and groups making a lot of money from people's love of animals refuse to believe the facts that animals ARE in poor condition and it is terribly cruel. We love our horses, but we have enough respect for them that they be treated humanely, and if that is going to a meat packing plant where they are HUMANELY killed and then used for food products (including zoo logs they feed to the wolves many of these same people also romanticize unrealistically) instead of being transported to Mexico where they are cruelly killed (pers com Dr Cuneo, U of A), then we encourage that to become the new mantra and project for these people claiming to be animal rights activists. If people will only think before they open their mouths and have a knee jerk reaction, the world would be a better place.
Not following sound management protocols by being persuaded by these groups to go against sound science and reality is a travesty and setting a dangerous precedent for the future, which EVERYONE will regret.