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First name: David
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: The package of information that you sent regarding the Heber Wild Horse Territory was and is an absurd attempt to justify your refusal to protect and arrive at a viable decision as to how you will protect the horse's right to live and allow these magnificent animals to live in our tax payer forests. This packet of the absurd cover your butt information is another example of how poorly the thinking is within our government controlled lands. Horses were introduced to America over 500 years ago and have roamed American free in the wild ever since.

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest consists of 2.7 Million acres. You have only allocated between 19 and 21 to the wild horses. That is not only ridiculous but less than .000001% of the available land. By your description, these are wild horses and it is your job to protect wild creatures in our forests. Wild horses should be allowed to travel within the forest as they please and not be limited to some arbitrary number of acres made up by someone sitting in an office chair. They should not be allocated such a small area or be manually reduced in heard size by any man made means. In addition you actually have no idea how many there actually are. An estimate of somewhere around 270 to 420 clearly indicates you have no real idea. And whatever would possess someone to think that a good viable number would be 50 to 104?

By your absurd plan it only makes sense to create havoc within the heard, spend thousands upon thousands of taxpayer dollars to relocate some horses causing them further distress, fear and likely some death. Frankly, few people would believe you could do it properly or would without killing or harm. Further where will they be moved to without the probably event that again would be considered overpopulation? On top of all of that you take away the joy of taxpayers that search and follow these horses and want their beauty and freedom and remove revenue from the towns in the area that house visitors that come to search for and enjoy the horses.

Your plan is nothing more than a reward for the criminal, murdering cattle ranchers that are killing these fantastic animals. THEY BELONG IN PRISON, NOT REWARDED. These ranchers should never have been allowed to graze their cattle on public lands at taxpayer expense while they make money. Cattle should never again be allowed to graze on public land. The public wants to see horses not cattle in the forest.

Should the horses overgraze the 2.7 million acres, they will naturally die off and reduce their numbers. That is the way of nature. Man should never interfere with how nature cares for its wildlife. Whoever originally decided to limit wild horses to such a ridiculously small area made a grave mistake and you are now trying to justify an error instead of correcting it. You should all be ashamed of wasting your time, our time and our tax dollars with this entire charade. Your job is to serve the public and wildlife. Wild horses and wildlife. Protect them, don't destroy them.

David Cook, Overgaard