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Comments: For too long the federal government has ignored the wishes of the majority of American taxpayers who support wild horses on public lands and oppose inhumane management practices that target wild equines with extreme cruelty at the behest of commercial livestock. For too long the USFS has accommodated the wishes of the livestock industry, which has been shown time and again to ruin our public lands and waterways, while both the USFS and the livestock industry blames the damage caused by too many livestock on wild equines. The USFS then adds insult to injury by putting captured wild horses at risk of slaughter in foreign meat plants by not ensuring that the animals are only adopted to responsible, long-term homes, rescues, or sanctuaries. This is an appalling policy that offends the humane values of the 83 percent of Americans who strongly oppose the slaughter of horses for human consumption.

To put it bluntly, the problem is not too many wild horses, it's too many livestock. Sadly, the USFS personnel in charge of wild horse management seem to execute the will of private industry rather than the taxpayers they serve. We the American people demand that our tax dollars be used for humane, on-range management, not helicopter roundups and long-term incarceration of wild horses that are fundamentally inhumane and economically unsustainable. We also insist that wild equines be treated like the federally-protected animals they are, not like trespassing livestock.

Prioritize wild horses, not livestock, on Wild Horse Territories. If overgrazing is occurring, reduce or eliminate livestock, not wild horses. If after livestock are reduced or eliminated on WHTs, and scientific data shows horses are indeed overpopulated, use proven, reversible fertility control in a closely targeted manner that allows these animals to remain on the range. Abide by the wishes of the taxpayers who fund your agency. It's a matter of respecting both the wild horses and all the American citizens who value them and want them protected, not persecuted and subjected to extreme cruelty on behalf of industry.

Thank you for considering my views.

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