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First name: Eileen

Last name: McKenzie

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please do not remove more wild horses from the Devil's Garden area until a better plan can be designed with emphasis on protecting the herds in the wild as opposed to removing as many as you can with no regard to their safety or to a more-agreeable number of horses on the range. Wild horses are native to America and are valuable to the environment. Unlike cattle and sheep, wild horses belong on the range and should be a top priority for protection but too many of them are being removed, often at the request of a small number of cattlemens associations. BLM currently has more horses languishing in holding than the total number in the wild, yet they continue to remove wild horses from their proper homes on the range in spite of the fact that there are very few available adopters. The Devil's Garden wild horses are special because they are the only wild horses in California. They need to be preserved in the wild because they are an excellent method of fire suppression as well as an important part of the environment. California is working on preserving mountain lions, who prey on wild horses, and with wolves re-establishing themselves in California, the wild horses will have two main predators. The current formulas for determining the number of horses that can remain in a particular area are outdated and the numbers need to be increased because the current numbers are too low to provide genetic viability, leading to inbreeding and disease. The numbers also need to be increased to account for more foal deaths from predators in anticipation of the increase of wolves and mountain lions. Nature's way of controlling animal populations is often harsh and unpleasant for humans to accept but the reality is that nature's way is the most effective for reducing the weak and sickly animals, and nature does a far better job of managing the populations than humans ever could. A better plan is needed for determining how many and which wild horses to remove because older ones should not be taken away from the home they have known most of their lives. Younger ones could be removed because they acclimate easier, but only if adopters can be found because removing the wild horses just to shove them into pens and cramped pastures where they no longer have the freedom to roam and get the exercise they need to stay healthy and keep their hooves trimmed is shameful. It would cost much less to haul feed and water to herds in need than to provide feed, vet care and farrier costs at taxpayer expense to care for thousands of penned up horses that are now nothing more than pasture pets, if they are lucky enough to find a home that actually has pasture. Then there are the roundups themselves that are cruel simply because the contractors don't care about the wild horses. They only care about time and money and push the wild horses too fast, terrorizing them and causing injury and death.

The bottom line is that the Devil's Garden horses need to be left alone because too many are being removed and better methods of management need to be used to preserve these beautiful wild animals in their home on the range as nature intended. In fact, a whole new avenue of tourism could be opened up because if more people were aware of the wild horses in California, more people would be interested in paying to view them, and there would probably be more people interested in viewing them in the wild than there would be potential adopters.