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Organization:

Title:

Comments: PRYOR mt joint herd management act 67845  
proposed forest plan

I am very disappointed that the forest service is still trying to go with their plan which threatens the future of this historic herd. The Pryor horses are legendary wild horses and need to keep a good genetic herd for Americans to enjoy them in the future. The Pryor horses are watched over by the mustang center. They know each horse and its genetics. They should remain under the Mustang center. Tourists come from all over to see this legendary herd. Unfortunately the forest service wants to conduct removals. By doing that lots of genetics will be lost. I also am opposing permanent sterilization. Which goes against animal welfare. It will also lead to the herd slowly dying out. If fertility control has to happen use pzp only that is safe for the horses and will not permanently sterilize them.

I ask the forest service first not conduct any removals there are so many wild horses and burros in holding already. I also ask that the aml is increased to 150 to 200 wild horses. These wild horses need a stable population with good genetics. This would help from inbreeding which would slowly wipe out this herd.

I would like to focus on the RMP amendment. This amendment is part of a complicated management process that began in 2020 with planning stage of hma's. Continuing in 2020 proposed Rmp amendment.

I oppose the change of studying Pryor horses (observed heterozygosity). This is not a tool that will maintain a healthy diversity herd. It is not good to study the Pryor horses with observed heterozygosity. Instead, the forest service can better study the pryors by using mare lineage, charts the Mustang center has on hand. The mustang center knows these wild horses. I don't understand why the forest service or blm would want to change things when the mustang service has done such a great job of watching over these wild horses. Keeping them at a good population to in order to maintain good bloodlines and lineage.

I suggest that there is no removal or permanent sterilization. Let the mustang center continue to watch over these wild horses. Use pzp for fertility control if necessary. I don't want to see the Pryor horses disappear.

One other thing to consider is to take down some fencing. The Pryor horses are just coming out of winter and need some range to graze on. There are areas that are fenced that could be taken down. This would help the Pryor horses and the range as well.