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First name: Ivory

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in opposition to the proposed management plan for the Heber Overgaard wild horses.

First, I feel the designated area is incorrect, and far too small. Wild horses can run for miles, and an arbitrary boundary of 2-3 miles is unrealistic.

Second, maintaining the genetic diversity of a wild horse herd requires more than 104 horses.

Third, rounding up wild horses is cruel, and results in extreme suffering, including broken legs and death from exhaustion and stress, especially for foals. If a decrease in herd size is deemed necessary, birth control is the least expensive and most humane option.

Please designate the Heber wild horses as a study herd. Let them provide the data the U S Forest Service needs to inform them about natural wild horse behavior, diet and movement.

Last but not least, wild horses are not just part of the forest. They are part of Arizona's cultural heritage.

Destroying the Heber wild horse herd will leave us all poorer.