

EXHIBIT 23

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Heber Ranger District
P. O. Box 968
Overgaard, Arizona 85933

ly to: 2260

Date: June 21, 1993

Subject: Territory Withdrawal Recommendation

To: Forest Supervisor

The "wild horse territory" on the Heber Ranger District should be eliminated from formal management designation. The territory was designated in the early 70's because there were unclaimed animals on the Forest. Some of these were "unclaimed" animals from the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and some were animals abandoned in the area when a local family left. Indian horses have been claimed when the District has published a notice to impound estray animals. There are two mares left in the "herd".

The Region in a 2260 memo to the WO, dated November 6, 1991, had reports for each territory. The Heber Territory was mentioned. It states: "... (it) should not be recognized at all." The territory was not an issue raised during development of the Forest Plan. It was not discussed in the EIS, nor is it discussed any where in the plan itself. A Territory Plan has not been written.

I recommend it be removed from the records as a territory and that the animals be removed by the State Livestock Sanitary Board.

Kate Klein

KATE KLEIN
Heber District Ranger