

EXHIBIT 24



Kendell L Hughes
06/12/2003 09:19 AM

To: Gene Onken/R3/USDAFS@FSNOTES
cc:
Subject: Wild horse territory

Gene,
I hope this answers your question, if not let me know. Kendell

Acres: 14,000
Allotments within the Territory: portions of the Heber and Black Canyon Allotments

Why is the population "0" and why is it being managed at "0" population: A 1974 letter indicates that the stud may be sterile, because no colts have been seen for several years and no indication of unauthorized removal. A 1991 report indicates that "approximately 5 feral horses wander along the Mogollon rim back and forth from the White River Apache Reservations. The Indians do not manage the horses, neither does the Forest Service. Natural attrition will eliminate the horses eventually." This report also states that "Elimination of incidental feral horses and burros from formal management considerations to reduce impacts on management resources, personnel and time. The A/S "herd" should not be recognized at all." A 1993 letter by the District ranger to the Forest Supervisor, indicates that "the territory was designated in the early 70's because there 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". This letter also recommends this territory be removed from the records and the two remaining animals be removed by the State Livestock Sanitary Board. A letter from the Forest Supervisor to the District Ranger agreed that "the designation did not meet the intent of the law and policy. The subject was not an issue during the Forest Land management Planning process and not mentioned in the forest plan as ammended or its EIS.

Note to File: It appears Kendell may be confusing the situation of horses from Reservation unauthorized grazing on Black Mesa District where there is ~~NO~~ NO designated Wild Horse Territory vs.

the Heber Wild Horse Territory on Heber RD which is a territory although only populated with feral horses at time WHAB Act was passed in 1971. Should never have been designated a territory - So $AML = \emptyset$
Conversation with David Stewart, R-3 Dir. Regional Mgt.
1/20/2004 L. Onken