

January 29, 2019

Chief Vicki Christiansen U.S. Forest Service 1400 Independence Ave, SW Washington, DC 20250-1111

## Re: Please Rescind Plan to Sell America's Wild Horses to Slaughter

Dear Chief Christiansen:

On behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and our over 2 million supporters, I am writing to express our opposition to the U.S. Forest Service's plan to sell wild horses from the Devil's Garden herd on Modoc National Forest land without a restriction on sale to slaughter. Removing this critical clause in the bill of sale for wild horses and burros invites kill buyers to buy animals for as little as \$1 per horse, then sell them to slaughterhouses in Canada and/or Mexico, where they will meet a cruel death. This plan also puts the U.S. Forest Service at risk of violating California law, which prohibits anyone from knowingly selling a horse to slaughter.

Attached, please find an appeal from 41,962 ASPCA supporters, urging the U.S. Forest Service to reverse its plan to sell wild horses from the Devil's Garden herd without restrictions. The American public wants humane, sustainable management of wild horses and burros on public lands. Selling the animals to slaughter for human consumption is neither humane nor sustainable.

We urge you to adopt a long-term management plan for wild horses and burros on U.S. Forest Service lands that controls populations through humane methods.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our recommendations on how the U.S. Forest Service can achieve the goals of the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act with the support of the American people.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Seggerman

Director of Regulatory Policy

Government Relations

ASPCA<sup>®</sup>

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