

Being an Arizona resident for the last 24 years, I am opposed to the removal of the historic Heber wild horses. I've been following the Salt River wild horses for the last few years and have learned that the removal of wild horses is detrimental in economic, environmental ways. Economically the tourist industry that depends upon the draw of seeing the wild horses will be negatively impacted, and at a time when COVID has already done damage. In addition the money that would be needed to board and care for the horses would be far more than what would be needed to manage them in the wild. Environmentally, removing any wildlife has negative impacts to the entire ecosystem. Specifically removing wild horses to an unsustainable amount would leave the entire Heber wild horse herd in jeopardy of becoming extinct. As an Arizonan that enjoys exploring and staying in the mountains, I would be devastated by the removal of the Heber wild horses and the negative impacts that would be caused by this action. Please consider leaving the wild horses wild, and adapting the successful management plan that is being used for the Salt River wild horses.