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First name: Joseph

Last name: LaBarbera

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a winter visitor and visit the Tonto Forest on a regular basis while I am here.

I would like to ask that as you consider portions of the Forest Revision pertaining to the horses who reside near the Salt River that you strive to maintain a place for the horses as they are an important part of the reason many of the public choose to visit the Tonto. I am aware of the SRHC and their recommendations, and am aware that the Forest Service's part in this is limited as the horses are in a unique classification being owned by the State of Arizona and roaming on Forest land.

As your mission is primarily to preserve and protect the land on which the horses roam, and given the current numbers of horses as unsustainable long term I do agree that some removals will be needed.

If I may I would like to direct your attention to a similar situation in Modoc National Forest, California, where there were also too many horses which led to a round up during 2019. The connections made with FS personnel and local volunteers has been a successful joint venture which has led to the placement of many of the Devil's Garden herd who had been removed. The example of Modoc in creating a temporary site where horses could be held pending adoption, and working closely with a local group of individuals is one that could possibly be duplicated here. I am aware of persons in Arizona with solid connections that have been involved in other operations to adopt out over 900 horses from a failed rescue in South Dakota. I am aware that these persons stand ready to assist.

There are resources to work with FS in solving not only the overcrowding situation, but long term recovery of the land which has been damaged.

Thank you for consideration of this comment.