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Comments: The current Salt River Horse management plan is not working. The horse enthusiasts are not logical in what is best for the herd and the public, and none of the 3 conditions listed in your Draft Management Plan are being met.

The Salt River Wild Horse Management Group (SRWHMG) are working against the Forest Service, who are trying to keep horses north of Bush Hwy and of the River, but this still isn't a well thought out and long term plan. The SRWHMG has also openly added their own fencing and gates to the area, blocking off many access points for hiking trails in the area, without approval from Forest Service or AZ Dept. Agriculture.

Right now the SRWHMG are spending close to \$50K per year on feed to keep the herd in good health. And the most recent studies have determined that in the area it can sustain about 40 head of horses, and there is currently 400 head.

The AZ Dept of Agriculture and Tonto National Forest has to do something to eliminate the numbers in the herd, mostly by letting nature take its course and have some of the herd thinned dramatically. The current fencing project along Bush Highway is also a disaster and was placed quickly without thought to wildlife and users of the area known as Granite Reef and Coons Bluff. The fencing is terrible, ugly, and detracts from the beauty of the national forest. I would like to see the state law changed to eliminate the protection for these non-native horses and remove the fence along the south side of the Salt River. Place all horses north of the river and fence the northern side, which would avoid many of the issues addressed above.