

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/12/2020 4:31:23 AM

First name: Mimi

Last name: Sancho

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Tonto National Forest Supervisor,

I am writing in response to the request for public participation on the Tonto National Forest Draft Land Management Plan. Barbed wire fencing and not horse friendly cattle guards is not protecting Salt River Wild Horses, or confining their grazing area when they have been migrating across Bush Highway for years. I would like to propose the following changes to the Forest Service's "desired conditions" for the Salt River Horses to make them consistent with the intent of the state law protecting these cherished wild horses in their historic habitat along the Lower Salt River:

-The Forest Service shall prioritize minimizing user conflicts in these areas. Uses of the forest in areas that comprise the Salt River Horse herd habitat should not negatively impact or conflict with the protection of the horses.

-Any Forest Service action in the Forest that could cause detrimental impacts to the Salt River horse herd or habitat areas, even those actions that fall under a Categorical Exclusion under NEPA, shall be publicly disclosed and analyzed in consultation with the Arizona Department of Agriculture and their 3rd party contractor. Such actions include, but are not limited to, herbicide use and fence maintenance, construction, and cattle guards.

-The Forest Service shall provide 30 days' notice for any activity or project that may impact the Salt River Horse herd or habitat areas.

I request you show some compassion for these harmless horses that offer the same benefits as the ocean to many. Salt River Wild Horses are an ocean in the desert. Had I known all these changes were going to happen, I would not have bought a house in this area. It is becoming a toxic environment TNF, instead of a peaceful retreat.

Thank you for your consideration,