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Comments: From Page 63 of USDA Tonto National Forest Draft Management Plan

Salt River Horses (SRH) The Salt River Horse herd includes the horses that inhabit and that have historically lived in and around the lower Salt River and Saguaro Lake areas in the Tonto National Forest and are absent a brand or other identifiers indicating ownership. Arizona law¹⁸ protects the Salt River Horse herd from being harassed, shot, injured, killed, or slaughtered. It requires written authorization from the Arizona Department of Agriculture or Maricopa County Sheriff's Office before interacting with a horse from the herd, clarifies that horses from the Salt River Horse herd are not considered stray under Arizona law, and directs the Arizona Department of Agriculture to enter into an agreement with the Forest Service to implement this article or address any issues relating to the Salt River Horse herd. Desired Conditions (SRH-DC) The areas where the Salt River Horse herd is located creates a safe environment for both the horses and other forest users, minimizes user conflicts, and protects natural resources. The Salt River Horse herd is healthy and the areas utilized by the Salt River Horses allow for diverse plant communities, satisfactory soil conditions, and maintain or improve wildlife habitat. The Salt River Horse herd does not negatively impact other resources. Management Approaches for Salt River Horses Work with the Arizona Department of Agriculture and the Salt River Horse Collaborative¹⁹ to develop and implement a management plan for the Salt River Horses.

The above is proof that the Heber wild horses and/or the Salt River wild horses must not be removed and they must be allowed to live in the Black Mesa Range District on USFS lands.

The plan to leave only 50-104 Heber wild horses must be cancelled as that would not be a genetically viable population and would cause their extinction.

All fences must be removed so the horses can access their normal ranges.

The cattle that cause over-grazing , riparian area damage and water pollution with E. coli must be removed.

PZP or any means of birth control are not needed as there is no over-population of these wild horses.

I strongly oppose any roundup or removal of these wild horses