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First name: Gail

Last name: Chadwick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Tonto National Forest Supervisor,

Thank you for accepting comments from the public on the Tonto National Forest Draft Land Management Plan. I am a long term (60 year) resident of the east valley and believe strongly that the Salt River Horses need and deserve protection and humane management. I have very strong concerns about the Draft Management Plan and believe that some clauses will harm the horses and that this plan needs to become consistent with the intent of the state law protecting these wild horses who live freely along the Lower Salt River.

I would like to propose the following important changes to the Forest Service's "desired conditions" for the Salt River Horses:

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. Such actions include, but are not limited to, herbicide use and fence maintenance, and construction.

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

It is my hope that as a public agency, you will seriously consider input from the public.

Best regards,

Gail Chadwick

Thank you for the consideration,