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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Tonto National Forest Supervisor,

I'm writing in response to the request for public participation on the Tonto National Forest Draft Land Management Plan. 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 internationally popular and beloved 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, 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.

I would further like to express my wish that all your future management plans solicit and prioritize the wishes of the general public, on whose behalf you manage the federal lands we the public own, and for which you are employed and paid with our tax dollars. The recent inappropriately secret and biased Salt River wild horse collaborative process, which gave individual stakeholders' input (such as ranchers) more weight than individual members of the general public, was an affront to what should rightly have been a transparent public decision making process. You can and must do better going forward if you are going to earn any measure of public trust.