

## Feral horse management in tribal communities: Strategies and challenges

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Feral horse (*Equus caballus*) populations present significant management challenges in Native American communities. Increasingly, tribes in Central Arizona are implementing proactive management approaches that include behavioral incentivization, immunocontraception, and domestication and adoption programs. These interventions are informed by on-site scientific research related to population size and body condition assessment with observational and statistical techniques, genetic characterization with fecal sampling, and range and habitat monitoring using ground-truthed remote sensing technology. The use of progressive, data-driven techniques enhances herd management, encourages tribal control of sovereign natural resources, and provides a template for adaptation and use by other Native American communities. Additionally, it accommodates attitudes and cultural perspectives toward horse management that vary widely within and among such communities.