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News Release



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Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' Law Enforcement Officers Investigates Horse Deaths

Springerville, AZ – January 11, 2020 – The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Law Enforcement investigators confirmed the discovery of eight deceased horses on the Black Mesa Ranger District outside of the Heber Wild Horse Territory on January 10, 2020.

The Forest Service law enforcement and equine experts, in partnership with the Navajo County Sheriff's Office, are investigating the deaths of the horses. Preliminary information indicates the horses' deaths were caused by gunshot wounds. The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests' ask the public to remain patient and to avoid the area during the ongoing investigation.

If the public encounters an injured or deceased horse, please contact the Black Mesa Ranger District at 928-535-7300 to report it immediately.

The 16 U.S. Code § 1338 criminal provisions state "Any person who maliciously causes the death or harassment of any wild free-roaming horse or burro shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$2,000, or imprisonment for not more than one year, or both."

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