

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Objections Filed against the Draft Decision for the Apache Leap Special Management Area Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

The Southwestern Region of the Forest Service has received six objections to the Apache Leap Special Management Area and associated plan amendment for the Tonto National Forest. The publication date (10/20/2017) of this notice in the *Arizona Capitol Times* initiates a 10-day period during which individuals or organizations with a particular interest in resolution of the objections may request to participate in any objection.

The proposed management plan, environmental analysis document, other supporting documentation, and a draft of the Decision Notice were released by Neil Bosworth, Forest Supervisor and Responsible Official for this plan, on August 25, 2017. These documents are available for review at [<http://www.apacheleapsma.us/public-involvement>] or by contacting John Scaggs, Public Affairs Specialist [602-225-5292] at the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office.

The following individuals and entities submitted objections to the Reviewing Officer:

1. David W. Gunn, individual
2. Carroll Gene McCormick, individual
3. Andrew F. Dreher, individual
4. Diane Marks, individual
5. Terry Rambler, Chairman of the San Carlos Apache Tribe
6. Roger Featherstone, representing Arizona Mining Reform Coalition, also Center for Biological Diversity, Concerned Citizens and Retired Miner Coalition, Patagonia Area Resource Alliance, Save Tonto National Forest, and Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter

These objections may be viewed online at [<http://www.apacheleapsma.us/public-involvement>]. The objection process requirements at 36 CFR 219.57 allow interested persons to participate in any resolution meetings between the objector and the Forest Service. The purpose of this opportunity is to better assure that efforts to resolve objections are conducted in an open and collaborative forum.

Interested persons must submit written requests to participate in the objection no later than 10 days from the date of this notice in the *Arizona Capitol Times* to: Cal Joyner, Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, at the following addresses Mail: 333 Broadway SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102; FAX: (505) 842-3800; or Email: objections-southwestern-regional-office@fs.fed.us with Subject: Apache Leap SMA.

Interested persons who wish to participate in an objection must include the following information: name and affiliation, if any; mailing address, phone number, and email address (if available); and the name(s) of the objector(s) in whose objection the person has an interest.; and a brief explanation of the interest in the objection and any specific concerns including a description of support or opposition to the objection; and identification of substantive formal comment provided by the requester during the planning process demonstrating the requesters participation in the planning process. Interested person requests may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), portable document format (.pdf), and hypertext markup language (.html).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.