



Apache Leap Special Management Area

Special Management Areas

What is a special management area?

Applied to Federal public lands, a special management area (SMA) is “An area or feature identified and managed to maintain its unique special character or purpose.” (Title 36 CFR 219.19)

Special areas can be designated administratively (executive branch of government) or by statute (Congress).

Categories of special areas designated by the United States Congress include: Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, National Natural Landmarks, National Historic or Scenic Trails, and National Heritage Areas and National Recreation Areas.

What is the Apache Leap SMA?

Apache Leap was designated a special management area by Congress in December 2014, as part of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015.

Section 3003 of the NDAA outlines the primary purposes, authorized activities and additional considerations for the management of this special area located on the Tonto National Forest (TNF) southeast of Superior, Arizona.

Section 3003 includes direction for the exchange of the 110-acre Apache Leap Parcel, presently owned by Resolution Copper Mining LLC, to the Forest Service. This parcel will be added to an existing area of the TNF (about 697 acres) to form the new 807-acre Apache Leap SMA. (See map on next page).

Information about the future management of the Apache Leap SMA can be found in this newsletter and on our website: www.ApacheLeapSMA.us

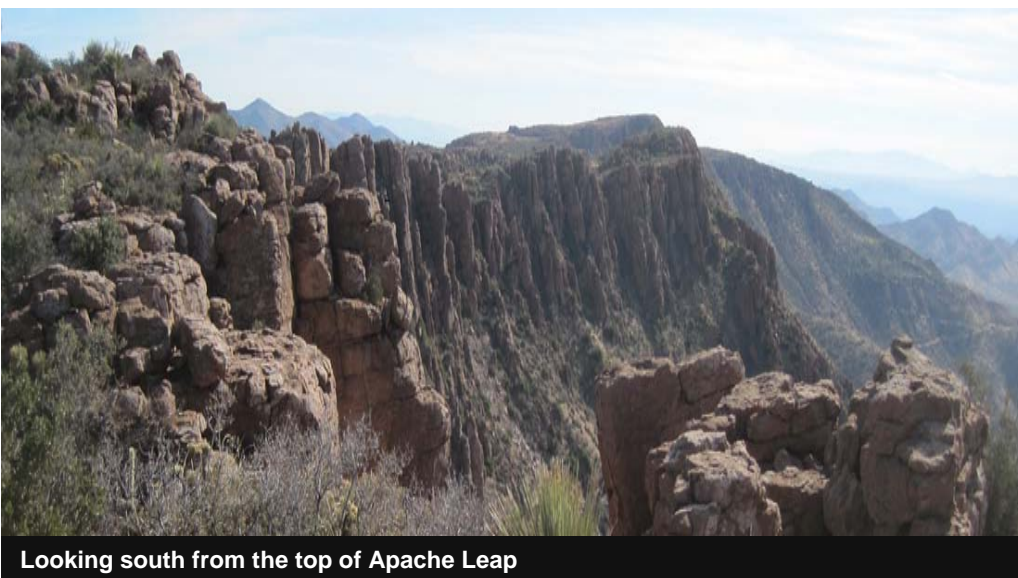
“The purposes of this special management area are:

-to preserve the natural character of Apache Leap;

-to allow for traditional use by Native American people; and

-to protect and conserve cultural and archeological resources of the area.”

- NDAA, Section 3003 (g)2



Looking south from the top of Apache Leap

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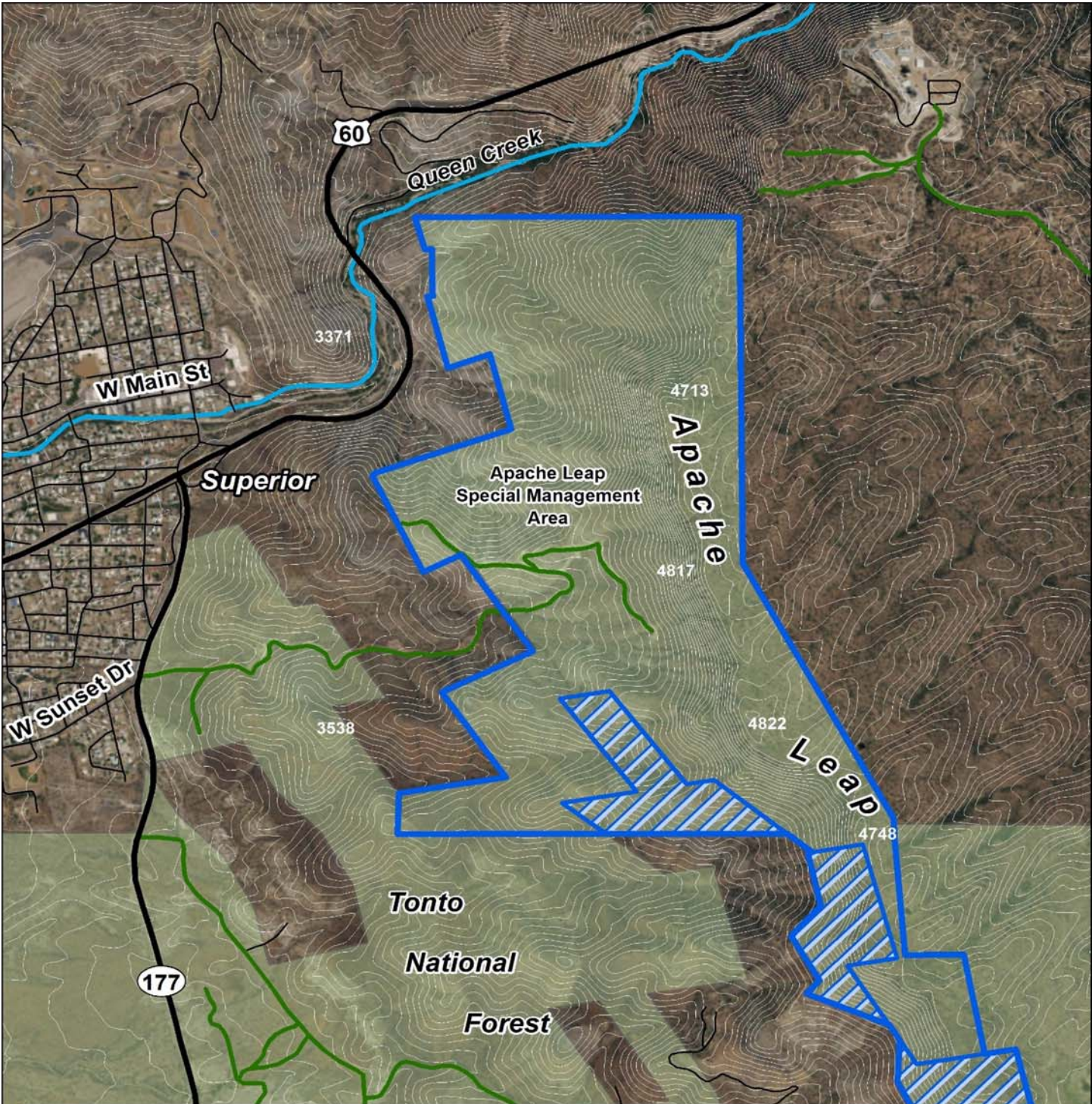
Special Management Areas

Apache Leap Q&A

What’s in a Mgmt. Plan?

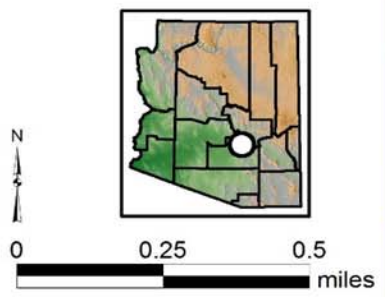
What We’ve Heard

Our Next Steps:
Project Schedule



Apache Leap Special Management Area

-  Highway
-  U.S. Forest Service Road
-  Other Road
-  Apache Leap Special Management Area
-  Apache Leap South End Land Exchange Parcel
-  Tonto National Forest



A new management plan for Apache Leap

The NDAA directs the Forest Service to prepare a management plan for the Apache Leap SMA by December 19, 2017, with input from affected tribes, the Town of Superior, Resolution Copper Mining LLC, and interested members of the public.

The finished plan will offer strategic direction for managing the land and resources within the special area boundary and a framework for guiding future decisions on site specific projects and activities.

During plan preparation the Forest Service must consider whether additional measures are necessary to protect the cultural, archeological, or historical resources of Apache Leap, and whether to provide access for recreation.

Between now and January 31, 2017, the Forest Service seeks public input on what is special about the Apache Leap area and how it should be managed for present and future generations consistent with its new primary purposes.

We want your feedback to help us craft content for the new Apache Leap SMA plan!

Will Apache Leap be managed differently in the future?

Current direction for managing the Apache Leap area is found in the 1985 Tonto National Forest Plan (as amended). The area has been managed for multiple uses including: dispersed recreation, livestock grazing, hunting, protection of water quality, and conservation of wildlife habitat.

Future management of the Apache Leap area will focus primarily on the three purposes identified in Section 3003 of the NDAA (see first page) - along with other considerations that result from consultations and public input.

Existing activities and uses of the area will be evaluated for their compatibility with the new primary purposes. Changes in the amount, location or timing of future uses or activities may be needed in order to meet the new purposes for the area.



A view of Picketpost Mountain from the top of Apache Leap

Are there new activities or land uses allowed at Apache Leap?

Section 3003 of the NDAA authorizes that the following activities may occur within the newly designated Apache Leap SMA:

Installation of seismic monitoring equipment to protect Apache Leap resources

Installation of fences, signs, or other measures to protect the health and safety of the public

Operation of an underground tunnel and associated workings, as described in Resolution Copper's General Plan of Operations, subject to reasonable terms and conditions

Other uses and activities, identified during consultation and plan development, will be evaluated for their suitability as part of the environmental assessment process (see schedule - last page).

What's in a management plan? Here are 5 essential parts:

| Plan Part | Purpose |
|------------------------------|---|
| Desired Conditions | Describe how the plan area should look in the future |
| Objectives | What is to be achieved in the near term as progress towards desired conditions (these are site-specific actions) |
| Standards/ Guidelines | Constraints on project and activity decision-making to help achieve desired conditions, avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements |
| Land Suitability | Areas identified as suitable/not suitable for certain uses or activities based on desired conditions |
| Map | Identification of special management area boundaries, authorized uses, and management restrictions |



United States Department of Agriculture
Tonto National Forest

Apache Leap Special Management Area

What has the public shared with us so far?

People value Apache Leap for its iconic and majestic presence, its natural character and orientation on the landscape. Apache Leap provides an attractive gateway to the local community and offers social and economic opportunities.

People currently use the area in many ways including: climbing, hiking, photography, bird and wildlife watching, hunting.

Apache Leap offers opportunities for people to connect with nature, to pray and feel one with God, to appreciate the natural scenery and cultural resources there.

People would like to see Apache Leap managed in a way that ensures future generations have the opportunity to enjoy the area much as it is now - with its natural character and scenery, a healthy biodiversity, protected cultural resources, solitude, continued hunting, and limited future development conducted in a manner that is harmonious with the natural environment.

To protect the natural and cultural resources of Apache Leap, people are willing to observe limits or restrictions on the type of activity, location, time of year, size of party, or other management controls deemed necessary.

There is high interest in the consideration of what uses will be deemed suitable and harmonious with the newly designated primary purposes for the area. For example, opportunities for new trails and public access to the area.

We'd like more feedback on these questions...

- * Is public recreation such as hiking, mountain biking, and rock-climbing compatible with preserving the natural character of Apache Leap, allowing for traditional uses by Native American people, and the protection of cultural resources? If so, where?
- * Is livestock grazing and ATV use compatible with preserving the natural character of Apache Leap, allowing for traditional uses by Native American people, and the protection of cultural resources? If so, where?
- * Would permanent or seasonal closures be appropriate to preserve the natural character of Apache Leap, allowing for traditional uses by Native American people, and for the protection of cultural resources?
- * What specific actions should the Forest Service take to protect cultural resources and archaeological sites in the Apache Leap Special Management Area?
- * Are there constructed facilities (e.g. picnic tables, shade ramadas, trails, etc.) that you would like to see that would enhance your use of the area? Where?
- * What else should be considered for managing the land and resources of the area?

Check our website www.ApacheLeapSMA.us for more information including answers to your questions!

Our Next Steps:

Apache Leap SMA Planning Steps and Schedule

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| September 2016 – January 2017 | Consult with affected Indian tribes, the Town of Superior, interested members of the public, and Resolution Copper for input on plan development |
| Jan – Mar 2017 | Prepare Management Plan |
| Mar – Apr 2017 | Collect Public Comments on Management Plan Hold Public Meeting in Superior, AZ |
| Mar – Jun 2017 | Prepare Environmental Assessment |
| July – Nov 2017 | Hear and Resolve Objections |
| December 2017 | Issue Decision Notice |

Contact Us

For more information about the Apache Leap Special Management Area:

Visit us on the web at:
www.ApacheLeapSMA.us

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