

Summary Report for Consultation with Public and Interested Parties

Apache Leap Special Management Area Management Plan and EA

Prepared for

U.S. Forest Service – Tonto National Forest

Prepared by

SWCA Environmental Consultants

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SUMMARY REPORT FOR CONSULTATION WITH PUBLIC AND INTERESTED PARTIES

Prepared for

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CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background.....	1
1.2 Management Plan.....	1
1.3 Apache Leap Special Management Area Description	1
1.4 Document Organization.....	3
2.0 WORKSHOP PROCESS	3
2.1 Purpose and Objectives of Workshop.....	3
2.1.1 Workshop Format	4
2.1.2 Input Identified during Public workshop	6
2.1.3 Opportunities for Public Input/Comment	7
2.2 Forest Service and Public Consulting Parties Activities.....	7
3.0 SYNTHESIS OF INPUT	7
3.1 By the Numbers	7
3.2 Input Summary	9
3.2.1 Recreation Resources.....	9
3.2.2 Natural Resources	9
3.2.3 Cultural and Heritage Resources	9
3.2.4 Water Resources	9
3.2.5 Land Use	9
3.2.6 Travel Management	9
3.2.7 Geology and Soils.....	10
3.2.8 Scenic Views.....	10
3.2.9 Rangeland Resources.....	10
3.2.10 Special Designations.....	10
3.2.11 Fire Management	10
3.2.12 Native American Consultation.....	10
3.2.13 Noise	10
3.2.14 Human Health and Safety	10
3.2.15 Mineral Resources	11
3.2.16 NEPA Process.....	11
3.2.17 Planning Process	11
3.2.18 Management Plan Implementation	11

Appendix

- A. Input Received during Public Workshop

Figures

Figure 1. Apache Leap Special Management Area overview.....	2
Figure 2. Workshop mapping exercise results.	5
Figure 3. Workshop sticky wall results.....	6

Table

Table 3.1. Synthesis of Input.....	8
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Tonto National Forest is preparing a management plan for the Apache Leap Special Management Area (Apache Leap SMA) as directed by the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291). The NDAA directs that the management plan be prepared in consultation with affected tribes, the Town of Superior in Pinal County, Arizona, Resolution Copper Company, LLC (Resolution Copper), and interested members of the public. The NDAA also directs the exchange of the approximately 110-acre Apache Leap parcel, presently owned by Resolution Copper, to the Tonto National Forest. This parcel will be added to an existing 697-acre area of Tonto National Forest to form the approximately 807-acre Apache Leap SMA (Figure 1). This area will be managed in accordance with the NDAA.

1.2 Management Plan

The Tonto National Forest solicited comments on the development of the Apache Leap SMA management plan from the public and interested and affected agencies and organizations by holding a public workshop, providing a “public input period” of 90 days, and consulting with the Town of Superior and Resolution Copper. A separate Tribal consultation process, as mandated by the NDAA, is ongoing and thus not included in this Summary Report.

1.3 Apache Leap Special Management Area Description

The management plan will provide strategic direction for managing the land and resources within the Apache Leap SMA boundary and a framework for guiding future decisions on site-specific projects and activities.

The Apache Leap SMA area is extremely rugged and mostly greater than 4,000 feet in elevation, with the western escarpment composed of sheer cliff faces, hoodoos, and buttresses. The eastern zone of Apache Leap is a gradual slope down to the Oak Flat area. The 697 acres of the proposed 807 acres currently managed by the Tonto National Forest lies in the Globe Ranger District. Under the current Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (forest plan), the area is managed as part of ‘Management Area 2F: General Management Area.’

There is currently no legal motorized access within the Apache Leap SMA boundary. However, there are existing routes, including both U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) roads and old, sometimes impassable by vehicle, mining-related roads around and sometimes within the Apache Leap SMA boundary that are currently used to gain non-motorized access into the Apache Leap SMA. These access routes include Forest Service road 315 (used to access the east side of the Apache Leap SMA) as well as Forest Service road 2440 and Forest Service road 282 (both used to access the west side of the Apache Leap SMA). Activities within the Apache Leap SMA include public recreation (hiking, rock-climbing, mountain biking), livestock grazing, hunting, vegetation and raptor monitoring, and a power transmission corridor.

Upon completion of the management plan, the Tonto National Forest intends to amend the current forest plan to include the Apache Leap SMA management plan.

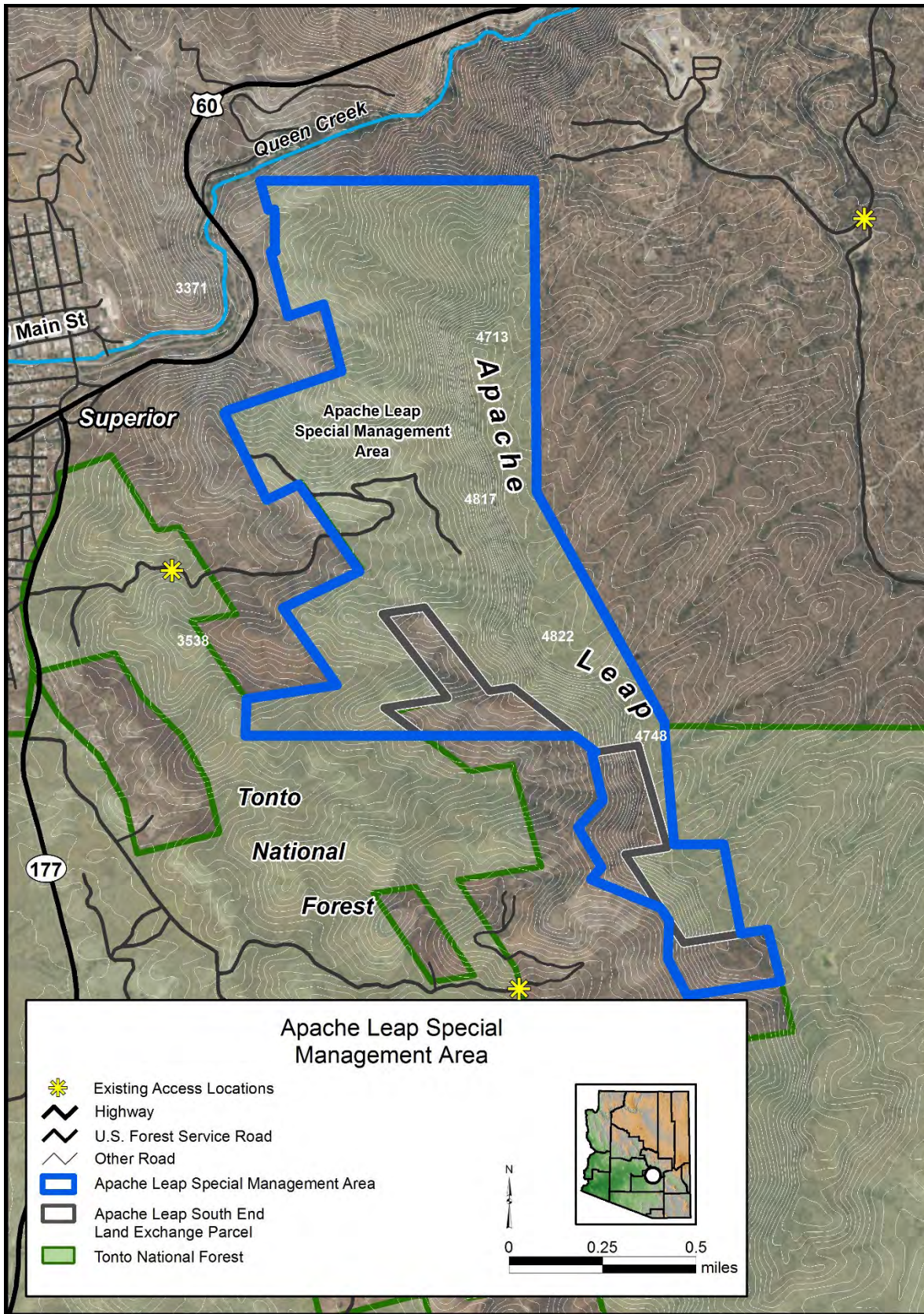


Figure 1. Apache Leap Special Management Area overview.

1.4 Document Organization

This document outlines the process used to collect public input during the development of the Apache Leap SMA management plan and summarizes the input received during a public workshop on October 20, 2016, and during a public comment period from October 6, 2016, to January 31, 2017. This is a draft document; the results of other planned consultation meetings, such as those with the Town of Superior and other stakeholders, will be added as those tasks are completed, prior to finalization. This document is organized into the following sections:

- Workshop Process
- Synthesis of Input
- Process Next Steps

Included as an appendix to this report are tables that list public input gathered through the public workshop and in consultation with the Town of Superior and Resolution Copper.

- Appendix A – *Summary of Input Received during Public Workshop*

2.0 WORKSHOP PROCESS

2.1 Purpose and Objectives of Workshop

The purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for members of the public to learn about the proposed project and to share any concerns or input they may have. Input from the public workshop process was used to help the Forest Service draft the Apache Leap SMA management plan. The list of stakeholders and other interested parties was also updated and expanded during the process.

The objectives of the workshop are presented below:

1. Inform the public about the purpose, objectives, requirements, and timing for establishing the Apache Leap SMA and for developing the Apache Leap SMA management plan.
2. Receive input from the interested and affected publics regarding what is important to them about Apache Leap and, given the purposes stated in the NDAA, what the Apache Leap SMA management plan should consider to provide access for recreational uses.
3. Meet requirements under the Forest Service planning regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations 219) and provide public input to Apache Leap SMA management plan.

Project information was made available to the public through the Apache Leap SMA website (www.ApacheLeapSMA.us), which went live on October 7, 2016. The Tonto National Forest sent out multiple notifications informing of the October 20, 2016, meeting:

1. A legal notice was published on October 7, 2016, in the *Arizona Business Gazette*, *Arizona Capitol Times*, *Arizona Republic*, *Arizona Silver Belt*, *Copper Basin News*, and *Superior Sun* periodicals.
2. Tonto National Forest sent out an email to stakeholders on October 10, 2016, via *GovDelivery* to approximately 4,000 individuals.
3. Tonto National Forest sent out postcards to stakeholders on October 7, 2016, to approximately 850 individuals.

4. Announcements were posted around the Town of Superior on October 10 and October 15, 2016, at Town Hall, Post Office, Senior Center, Chamber of Commerce, Copper Triangle Mining/Geology Center, Save Money Mart, and the entrance to Oak Flat.

2.1.1 Workshop Format

5:00 – 5:30	Open house to view maps and information about the Apache Leap SMA
5:30 – 6:00	Presentation
6:00 – 6:30	Question and answers (Q&A)
6:30 – 8:00	Interactive planning workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitated small group work (60 minutes)• Report out to full group (30 minutes)
8:00	Closing statements

OPEN HOUSE

Posters displayed during the open house included:

- U.S. Geological Survey topographic map depicting the 807-acre Apache Leap SMA
- Map with aerial imagery depicting the 807-acre Apache Leap SMA
- Map with aerial imagery depicting the 807-acre Apache Leap SMA location relative to the Arizona National Scenic Trail and the Resolution Copper east and west plant sites
- An overview of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and direction on the establishment of the Apache Leap SMA
- An overview of the planning process
- A list of ‘Ground Rules’

Large 40 × 60–inch maps of the Apache Leap SMA and surrounding area were provided for workshop attendees to mark up, note access areas, etc. (Figure 2).

Staff from the Forest Service and SWCA Environmental Consultants, the third-party contractor to the Forest Service, were available to answer questions during the open house.

PRESENTATION

Mary Rasmussen, Tonto National Forest Apache Leap Project Manager, provided a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation about the Apache Leap SMA management plan and environmental assessment process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION

Tom Torres, Tonto National Forest Deputy Supervisor, and Mary Rasmussen answered questions from the public. Questions were recorded during the session; the answers provided by Mr. Torres and Ms. Rasmussen during the workshop are annotated in Appendix A.

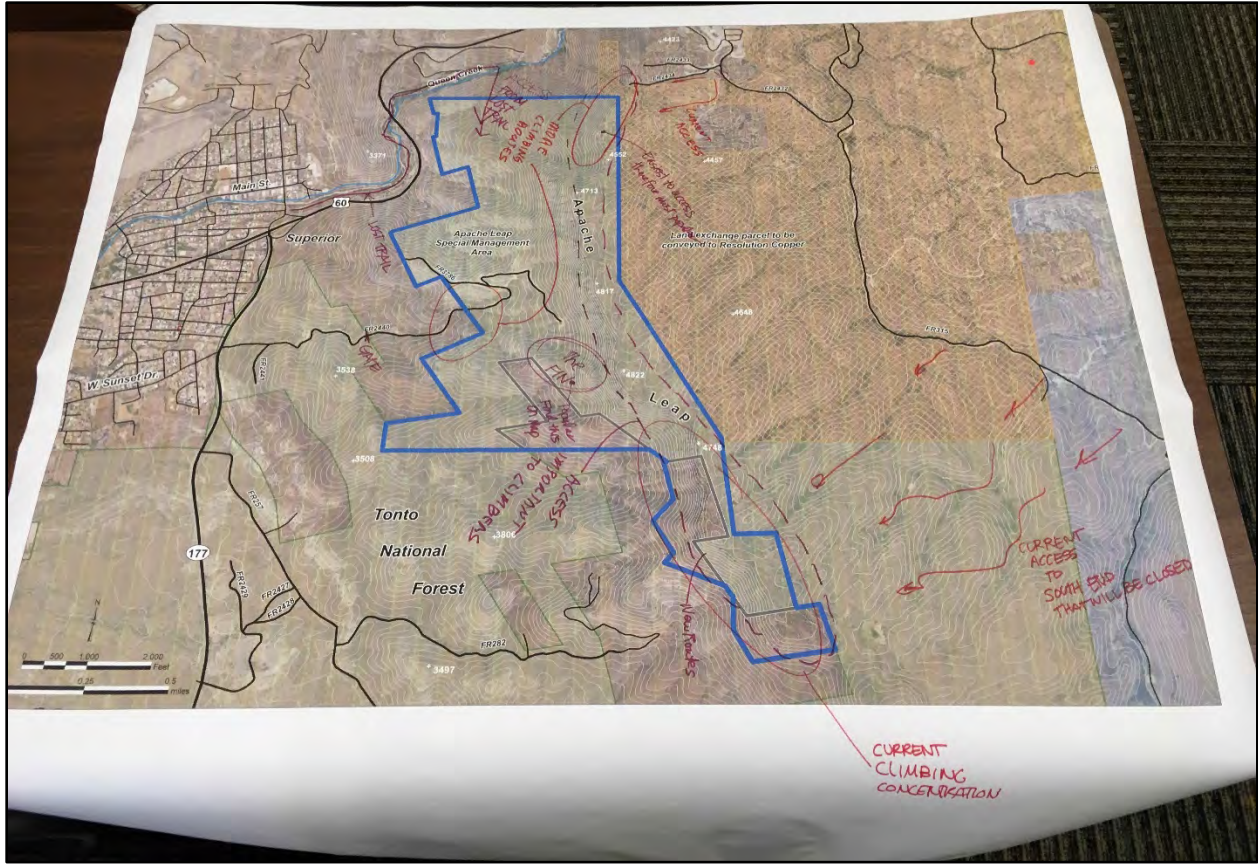


Figure 2. Workshop mapping exercise results.

INTERACTIVE PUBLIC WORKSHOP

There were approximately 30 workshop attendees who participated in the interactive public workshop. Four facilitators broke the group into three smaller working groups. Then, each group independently answered a series of questions pertaining to Apache Leap:

1. Do you currently use or visit the Apache Leap area? If so how?
2. Given that the Apache Leap SMA management plan must meet the stated purposes of the Act, what is important to you about how this area is managed to protect natural and cultural resources?
3. Given that the Apache Leap SMA management plan must meet the stated purposes of the Act, what are some ways that access for recreation and other activities can be considered, while at the same time protecting the natural and cultural resources of the area?
4. Given that the Apache Leap SMA management plan must meet the stated purposes of the Act, imagine that you are visiting this area 25–30 years from now; describe your *desired* experience.

Each individual group spent approximately 10 minutes on each question, with the facilitator recording the workshop participants’ input on colored paper.

When each of the four questions had been answered and the participants’ responses recorded, the facilitators presented the findings to the entire workshop group. To illustrate the common themes that were present among the groups, similar topics were posted together on a “sticky wall.” The final sticky wall illustrated the workshop responses to the four questions (Figure 3).

2.1.3 Opportunities for Public Input/Comment

Members of the public and agencies were afforded several methods for providing comments during the public workshop and up until January 31, 2017. The public was made aware of the following methods for providing input:

- Input could be recorded on comment forms and submitted to Tonto National Forest at the workshop. Comment forms were provided to all workshop attendees and were also available throughout the meeting room, and attendees could take comment forms home with them.
- Input could be submitted verbally during the Q&A session.
- Input could be submitted verbally during the interactive workshop.
- Input could be submitted verbally during the Town of Superior Consultation Meeting (TBD).
- Input could be submitted verbally during the Tribal Consultation Meeting(s) (TBD).
- Individual letters and comment forms could be mailed via U.S. Postal Service to Tonto National Forest, P.O. Box 34468, Phoenix, AZ 85067-4468.
- Emailed comments could be sent to the Tonto National Forest Apache Leap Project Manager, Mary Rasmussen: mcrassmusen@fs.fed.us.

All comments were given equal consideration, regardless of method of transmittal.

2.2 Forest Service and Public Consulting Parties Activities

In addition, the Forest Service has engaged or initiated with the Town of Superior and interested members of the public through the following efforts:

- A presentation to the Community Working Group on November 9, 2017;
- A presentation to the Recreation User Group, a subcommittee of the Community Working Group, on December 7, 2016;
- A presentation to the Superior Town Council on January 12, 2017; and
- Public meeting on proposed management plan and scoping for the environmental assessment on April 4, 2017.

3.0 SYNTHESIS OF INPUT

Public input from documents, emails, and comments were reviewed and synthesized to identify common themes. Table 3.1 below summarizes the themes the comments were grouped into and identifies sub-themes, or specific areas of concern within those themes. Section 3.2 below summarizes the input received for each of the themes. Finally, Appendix A details all of the input that was received by the Forest Service during the input period from October 6, 2016, to January 31, 2017, and categorizes them according to the area of concern. All of the input received will be considered during the planning process for the Apache Leap SMA management plan.

3.1 By the Numbers

In total, approximately 40 attendees were present at the October 20, 2016, public workshop. The Forest Service provided a presentation and answered questions at three separate organizational meetings, including the Town of Superior Town Council. In total, 10 mailed-in comments were received during the

public input period from October 6, 2016, to January 31, 2017. All respondents were residents of Arizona, and all but one (Arizona Game and Fish Department) were local to the Town of Superior and/or Gila County. Input was categorized into resource topics for 18 distinct areas of concern (see Table 3.1).

Table 3.1. Synthesis of Input

Themes	Specific Area of Concern
Recreation Resources	Climbing Camping Kites/Paper Airplanes Ziplines Hiking Hunting Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Wildlife/Bird Watching Vegetation/Nature Viewing Public Access
Natural Resources	Wildlife Wildlife Habitat Vegetation Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species Threatened and Endangered Species Migratory Birds
Cultural/Heritage Resources	Sense of Place Ethnobotany
Water Resources	Water Quality Water Quantity
Land Use	Allowable Uses Prohibited Uses
Travel Management	Motorized Use Non-motorized Use
Geology and Soils	Subsidence
Scenic Views	Retain Existing Character
Rangeland Resources	Grazing
Special Designations	Special Management Area
Fire Management	Wildland Fire Fighting and Prevention
Native American Consultation	Sacred Sites
Noise	Ambient noise
Human Health and Safety	Emergency Services Access
Mineral Resources	Mining Operations
NEPA Process	Public Participation
Planning Process	Public Involvement
Management Plan Implementation	Prescriptions Monitoring/Enforcement

3.2 Input Summary

The following summarizes respondent input for each of the overall themes identified in Table 3.1 above.

3.2.1 Recreation Resources

Respondents for recreation resources generally expressed the view that the Forest Service's current level of management of recreation uses like climbing, camping, hiking, and hunting should continue, and there should be little if any prohibition of most recreation activities. Many respondents indicated that their chosen form of recreation includes hiking both on and off trail, enjoying being in nature, wildflower and wildlife viewing, and bird watching. Off-highway-vehicle use is a preferred recreation activity for many of the respondents, but respondents did not specifically request motorized access to the Apache Leap SMA.

Other respondents suggested that the Forest Service should allow for some expansion of recreation opportunities and increase public access within the Apache Leap SMA. Some respondents requested that the Forest Service consider allowing the future construction of non-motorized trails to increase the public's ability to access the escarpment; others stated that the Forest Service should allow the construction of mountain bike trails within the Apache Leap SMA.

3.2.2 Natural Resources

Input from respondents included requests for the Forest Service to continue to manage the area in a way that protects natural resources like the unique ecology, natural vegetation, and wildlife. Input also included requests from the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the ability to continue wildlife management projects, such as habitat assessments, ground or aerial surveys, wildlife waters, and species' management.

3.2.3 Cultural and Heritage Resources

Some respondents indicated that the Forest Service should not expand public access to the Apache Leap SMA, for fear that it could lead to looting and destruction of cultural and heritage resources. Others indicated that some areas of the Apache Leap SMA should be closed to public use to protect cultural and heritage resources.

3.2.4 Water Resources

Respondents were concerned for the protection of water resources in the Apache Leap SMA, especially seeps and springs. Their input included requests to the Forest Service to protect the water resources of the Apache Leap SMA, including surface water and groundwater.

3.2.5 Land Use

As indicated above in Section 3.2.1, Recreation Resources, there was a wide variety of requests for allowable uses in the Apache Leap SMA. Some respondents indicated that instead of full closures/prohibitions, there could be seasonal use limitations in specified areas (e.g., day-use only).

3.2.6 Travel Management

Respondents requested that the Forest Service maintain existing motorized routes that provide hiker access to the Apache Leap SMA.

3.2.7 Geology and Soils

Respondents requested that the Forest Service protect the unique geological features in the Apache Leap SMA. Some of the respondents did not want to see the Forest Service allow surface-disturbing activities such as trail construction, citing soil erosion and other reasons.

3.2.8 Scenic Views

Numerous respondents indicated that the iconic view to and from Apache Leap is very important to them and requested that the Forest Service maintain the existing landscape character the same way it looks today for future generations. Related to this, several of the respondents indicated that the reason the Forest Service should not allow any development within the Apache Leap SMA is so that the view remains unchanged.

Many comments and input indicated that the view of the scenic and iconic Apache Leap escarpment is how they identify with the area, and have for generations.

3.2.9 Rangeland Resources

Some respondents indicated that the Forest Service should continue allowing the current grazing permittees to conduct their grazing operations.

3.2.10 Special Designations

As the designation of a special management area indicates that the area requires management that may differ from the surrounding Forest, but is specific in it is not the same as a Wilderness area, some respondents questioned whether a special management area was necessary. Respondents questioned whether designation of a special management area would offer enough protection to the area and mentioned that a Wilderness designation would be more protective.

3.2.11 Fire Management

Some respondents expressed concern that limiting public access would prevent adequate wildland fire-fighting ability, particularly to protect the Town of Superior, and thus requested that all existing access be maintained.

3.2.12 Native American Consultation

The Forest Service has been conducting Tribal Consultation under Section 106 since October 2016. In general, respondents have requested that the Forest Service continue the management of the Apache Leap SMA the same as it is conducted today.

3.2.13 Noise

Several respondents indicated that they enjoy the peace and quiet that the Apache Leap SMA offers and indicated that the Forest Service should continue to manage the area in a manner that would not increase the current ambient noise levels.

3.2.14 Human Health and Safety

Concerns over the ability to provide emergency service access were included in some respondents' input, particularly for the local emergency services provided by the Town of Superior. It is important to the

Town of Superior that first responders be able to reach recreation users who may have an emergency in a manner that maximizes response time; thus, some respondents concerned with human health and safety generally supported expanding public access and the ability to construct future trails within the Apache Leap SMA.

3.2.15 Mineral Resources

Some respondents indicated that the Apache Leap SMA should be closed to mineral entry in perpetuity. Many respondents indicated that adjacent mining activity should be monitored very closely to ensure that mining activities are conducted in a manner that would not affect the natural character of the Apache Leap SMA.

3.2.16 NEPA Process

Several respondents indicated there should be additional public meetings held during the NEPA process. Other respondents were curious whether the special management area planning process and the NEPA process were being conducted concurrently.

3.2.17 Planning Process

At the beginning of the public input period (in October 2016), many respondents expressed their wishes to continue to be engaged with the Apache Leap SMA planning process, indicative of the local passion that is present for Apache Leap. They requested that the Forest Service continue to hold meetings and provide an array of options for public input.

3.2.18 Management Plan Implementation

Numerous respondents indicated that the Forest Service should prioritize upholding the requirements of the NDAA by consulting with affected parties on the content of the special management area not only at the onset of the public input period, but throughout the life of the management plan. Several respondents expressed concerns that enforcement of the Apache Leap SMA management plan standards, goals, and desired future conditions should include an action plan to address any potential effects of surrounding mining activity.

APPENDIX A

Input Received during Public Workshop

Table A-1. Public Input Areas of Concern

Primary Codes	Secondary Codes
Recreation Resources	Climbing
	Camping
	Kites/Paper Airplanes
	Photography
	Hiking
	Hunting
	OHV use
	Wildlife/Bird Watching
	Vegetation/Nature Viewing
Special Designations	
Land Use	
Rangeland Resources	Grazing
Water Resources	Water Quality
	Water Quantity
Travel Management	Non-motorized use
	Motorized use
	Public Access
Natural Resources	Wildlife
	Wildlife Habitat
	Vegetation
	Noxious Weeds
	Endangered Species
	Migratory Birds
Scenic Views	Retain Existing Character
Management Plan Implementation	
Geology and Soils	Subsidence
Fire Management	
Cultural/Heritage	Sense of Place
	Ethnobotany
Planning Process	
NEPA Process	
Noise	
Native American Consultation	Sacred Sites
Health and Human Safety	

Table A-2. Public Input/Answers to Four Questions

	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
1. Do you currently use or visit the Apache Leap area? If so how?				
Yes (climbing, hiking, and enjoying views in all directions)	Recreation	Climbing	Scenic Views	
Yes (climbing, hiking, and enjoying views in all directions)	Recreation	Climbing	Scenic Views	
Yes, uses area for recreation & bird and wildlife watching	Recreation	Wildlife/Bird Watching		
No, but very aware of it and views whenever visiting Boyce Thompson Arboretum	Scenic Views			
No, but visually value its presence	Scenic Views	Sense of Place		
Yes, hiking mostly	Recreation	Hiking		
For those that stated they don't currently use or visit the area, they stated that it is a well-known feature and serves as a "gateway" into the Mountains, very iconic to the area. Visually it is more important than visiting to those that don't use it.	Scenic Views	Sense of Place		
Yes, see it out the front door everyday	Scenic Views			
Yes (visual, scenic quality, aesthetic character)	Scenic Views			
Yes (hiking)	Recreation	Hiking		
Yes (rock climbing - south end, middle, and north end)	Recreation	Climbing		
Yes, hunting	Recreation	Hunting		
Yes (rural - how do we make it accessible and keeping the character?)	Public Access	Retain Existing Character		
Yes, spiritual, cultural, recreation (you can't destroy around it and retain these things. The intent is not possible with RCM.	Cultural/Heritage Resources	Recreation		
Yes, hiking, photography, wildlife observing	Recreation	Hiking	Photography	Wildlife/Bird Watching
Yes, observe vegetation	Recreation	Vegetation/Wildflower Viewing		
Yes, try to understand the depth and historical significance of the cultural resource	Cultural/Heritage Resources			
Yes, go there to feel at one with nature and God	Cultural/Heritage Resources			
Yes, where I go to pray, it is my church	Cultural/Heritage Resources			
Yes, lead hikes in the area, in Oak Flat, and in Devil's Canyon	Recreation	Hiking		

	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
Yes, if the mine threatens to affect the Leap, can the Forest Service enforce protection?	Retain Existing Character			
To be successful, this needs to include terms and conditions that will limit what Resolution can do to affect it.	Retain Existing Character	Mining Operations		
Yes, hike there because it is gorgeous	Recreation	Hiking		
2. What is important to you about how this area is managed to protect natural and cultural resources?				
<u>Natural Resources</u>				
Biology	Natural Resources			
Preserve Flora/Fauna	Natural Resources	Retain Existing Character		
Do not dewater groundwater	Water Resources	Groundwater		
<u>Management Plan Implementation</u>				
It has to be protected from effects from mining	Retain Existing Character	Mining Operations		
Management Plan needs to have teeth!	Management Plan Implementation			
Don't love it to death	Retain Existing Character			
<u>Cultural Resources</u>				
Ethno Botany	Ethnobotany			
Knowing the full and complete inventory of cultural resources	Cultural/Heritage Resources			
Preserve Native American access to sacred sites	Native American Access	Sacred Sites		
<u>Valued Activities</u>				
Camping	Recreation	Camping		
Climbing	Recreation	Climbing		
Biking	Recreation	Biking		
Hiking	Recreation	Hiking		

	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
<u>Access</u>	Public Access			
Hunting Access	Recreation	Hunting		
No motorized access; foot traffic only	Non-motorized			
Ensure recreation does not damage the Leap	Retain Existing Character			
Limited Improvements	Management Plan Implementation			
Range Improvements - limited but functional	Rangeland Resources			
Eliminate Grazing	Rangeland Resources			
<u>User Experience</u>	Sense of Place			
Solitude	Recreation	Sense of Place		
Keep it pristine	Retain Existing Character			
Hiking and preservation beauty	Recreation	Hiking	Retain Existing Character	
Preserve visual integrity of Leap	Scenic Views	Retain Existing Character		

3. What are some ways that access for recreation and other activities can be considered, while at the same time protecting the natural and cultural resources of the area?

<u>Optimal Access</u>	Public Access			
Understanding existing routes' location, and knowing the current use	Travel Management			
Access to east side	Public Access			
New access on west side	Public Access			
<u>Monitoring and Partnerships</u>	Management Plan Implementation			
Monitor Use & Adapt	Management Plan Implementation			
Volunteer Groups	Management Plan Implementation			

	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
<u>Limited Improvements</u>	Land Use			
No bathrooms, etc.	Land Use			
Limit public parking (inside SMA and along highway)	Land Use			
Limit blasting in the mine to times it doesn't affect users	Mining Operations			
<u>Restrictions</u>	Land Use			
Seasonal restrictions	Management Plan Implementation			
Timing restrictions	Management Plan Implementation			
Permits	Management Plan Implementation			
Special Use Permits	Management Plan Implementation			
Minimal Promotion	Management Plan Implementation			
Prohibit off-road vehicles within SMA	Recreation	OHV [off-highway-vehicle] use		

4. Imagine that you are visiting this area 25–30 years from now; describe your *desired* experience.

<u>Preservation</u>	Retain Existing Character			
Stay the same- little change	Retain Existing Character			
Apache Leap is still there	Retain Existing Character			
Looks the same	Retain Existing Character			
future generations hiking and biking	Recreation	Hiking	Biking	
Want to take kids there and have the same experience as now	Retain Existing Character			
To show future generations what is important to protect	Sense of Place			
View to the east remains intact (no subsidence)	Scenic Resources			
Future development/activities are constructed in a manner harmonious with the natural environment	Management Plan Implementation			

	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
Minimal disturbance	Land Use			
<u>Experience</u>	Sense of Place			
Healthy biodiversity	Natural Resources			
Preserved cultural resources	Cultural/Heritage Resources			
Solitude	Sense of Place			
Continued Hunting	Recreation			
Management Plan includes monitoring and enforcement	Management Plan Implementation			
Access	Public Access			
Installation of a trail system that allows access to the Leap (consideration of natural and cultural resources)	Management Plan Implementation			

Table A-3. Public Input Areas of Concern

Participants were provided opportunities to illustrate areas within the SMA that are valued by them. Reference the project record for the map. The following notes summarize the mapping exercise:	Primary Code	Secondary Code
1. The easiest access to climbing routes within the SMA is at the Northeast corner of the SMA. Because of ease of access, this area is the most popular climbing area of Apache Leap.	Public Access	Climbing
2. Access to the northwest corner of the SMA is achieved via the LOST Trail	Public Access	
3. There is an existing gate on FR 2440 at the private land boundary before reaching the SMA boundary	Public Access	Travel Management
4. "The Fin" is a popular climbing route on the west side of Apache Leap	Climbing	
5. There is a concentration of climbing routes on each side of FR 3786	Climbing	Travel Management
6. Another current climbing area concentration is located at the south end of the SMA, adjacent to the South End Parcels	Climbing	
7. It is important to retain access to the area described in #6	Retain Existing Character	Climbing
8. FR 315 is to be closed, current access to SMA south end from the Oak Flat will be lost	Public Access	Travel Management

Table A-4. Q & A Session and Answers

Questions and Answer Session with Tom Torres and Mary Rasmussen	Primary Code	Secondary Code
1. Should you include Pinal County and the State of Arizona in the planning process?	Planning Process	
Pinal County and the State of Arizona are included as part of the guidance outlined in Section 3003 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015. This Act directs that the management plan be prepared in consultation with affected tribes, the Town of Superior in Pinal County, Arizona, Resolution Copper and interested members of the public.		
2. Who is paying for improvements, facilities, or development in this area?	Planning Process	
Currently, the Tonto National Forest (TNF) has authority for managing an existing 697-acre area of Apache Leap. The Forest Service will continue being responsible for the Apache Leap Special Management Area following the transfer of an adjacent area of 110 acres — currently owned by Resolution Copper — to form the 807-acre area as directed by the Land Exchange portion of the NDAA.		
3. Are you going to install any new hiking trails in the area?	Recreation	Hiking
Providing access for public recreation such as hiking is a consideration in the preparation of the new management plan. However, the management plan will be written to satisfy the three purposes set forth in the NDAA: “to preserve the natural character of Apache Leap; to allow for traditional use by Native American people; and to protect and conserve cultural and archaeological resources of the area.” Future uses and activities within the special management area will be evaluated for compatibility with these three purposes.		
4. Is mining an allowable use in the SMA?	Planning Process	
No. As a condition of the land exchange outlined in the NDAA, Resolution Copper shall surrender to the United States, without compensation, all rights held under the mining laws and any other law to commercially extract minerals under Apache Leap.		
5. Is this meeting instead of a scoping meeting for the Environmental Assessment?	NEPA process	
No. The purpose of the October 20 meeting and subsequent November 9 meeting in Superior was to solicit input from the public about how they value the Apache Leap area and what considerations should be included as the plan is developed. An additional meeting in Superior that the public can attend is scheduled for Jan 12, 2017 from 6 to 6:45 p.m. at the Town Hall Auditorium (199 N. Lobb Ave.) . Once a draft version of the management plan is developed, the Forest Service will announce a 30-day scoping period where the public can comment on the proposed plan and related concerns that should be considered during the environmental assessment.		
6. When is the scoping meeting?	NEPA process	
The Forest Service plans to host a public meeting in Superior sometime in March–April 2017. Several venues will be provided (in person, in writing, electronically, etc.) to collect public comments on the management plan. Check the Apache Leap Web site — http://www.apacheleapsma.us/ — for updates.		
7. How much noise will the area be subject to from blasting or adjacent roads?	Noise	
The Forest Service continues to collect data and analyze information regarding noise levels and traffic flow related to the General Plan of Operations for the proposed copper mine.		
8. Was this part of the original bill that was mandated by Congress? Who authored the bill and came up with the content?	Planning Process	
Language for the designation of Apache Leap as a Special Management Area as well as the Forest Service’s responsibility to prepare a management plan are outlined in Section 3003 of the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2015. Elected officials authored the bill. Sponsors of the Act include U.S. Reps. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., and Ann Kirkpatrick, D-Ariz., as well as U.S. Senator Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., and U.S. Senator John McCain., R-Ariz.		

Questions and Answer Session with Tom Torres and Mary Rasmussen	Primary Code	Secondary Code
9. You have an accelerated schedule. Why is the objection period so long?	Planning Process	
The objection period for this type of proposed action (creating a new management plan) is defined by regulations at CFR 36 Title Subpart B §219.56. The estimate of five months includes a 45-day period for filing objections and a 90-day period for resolving objections prior to issuing the final plan decision.		
10. Why did it take so long to get started with this process?	Planning Process	
The Forest Service has finite resources and considered multiple variables, including other compliance requirements outlined in Section 3003 of the NDAA, before allocating resources to this project.		
11. What authority does the FS have to protect the natural character of this area? What is the point if Rio Tinto is going to destroy it anyway?	Retain Existing Character	Mining Operations
The NDAA — a federal law — directs the Forest Service to manage the Apache Leap Special Management Area. Currently there is no evidence that proposed nearby mining operations would impact the natural character of Apache Leap. Additionally, installation of seismic monitoring equipment on the surface and subsurface to protect the resources located within the special management area is authorized.		
12. Do you know where Resolution Copper is building a tunnel? And why are they building a tunnel?	Mining Operations	
Resolution Copper is proposing to build a tunnel between the East and West Plant Sites. The tunnel would be used to transport ore. The exact location of the tunnel is to be determined but would be near the northern boundary of the Apache Leap SMA.		
13. Will you identify what is an unacceptable change related to long-term monitoring?	Management Plan Implementation	
The management plan for Apache Leap could include a monitoring strategy to collect data about changing conditions and proactively protect resources.		
14. Will Resolution Copper enlarge the “never sweat” tunnel?	Mining Operations	
There are no plans to do so at this time.		
15. Is this an appropriate arena to discuss access to other areas like Devil’s Canyon?	Recreation	
No. The management plan will address how to manage the land and resources within the Apache Leap Special Management Area only.		
16. How far is the Resolution Copper mine from Apache Leap?	Mining Operations	
Mining operations at the East Plant Site could occur approximately 1,000 feet east of the Apache Leap SMA boundary.		
17. How are you going to be able to stop ground movement at Apache Leap?	Geology and Soils	Mining Operations
The EIS for the proposed mining operation would evaluate the potential for ground movement.		
18. Does language in the NDAA specifically say that the mining operation cannot impact Apache Leap?	Mining Operations	
No and, unfortunately, there are no absolute guarantees. However, an authorized activity for the Apache Leap Special Management Area is the installation of seismic monitoring equipment on the surface and subsurface to protect the resources located within the area. Additionally, the Forest Service continues its ongoing collection and analysis of data associated with Resolution Copper’s proposed General Plan of Operations for the copper mining project.		

Questions and Answer Session with Tom Torres and Mary Rasmussen	Primary Code	Secondary Code
19. Will there be penalties placed upon the mining company associated with disturbance to Apache Leap?	Management Plan Implementation	
The EIS for the proposed mining operation could identify issues and recommend mitigation measures (the lessening or removal of negative impacts). Resolution Copper still will be required to comply with numerous federal and state environmental laws which address air quality, hazardous waste management, mine safety, mine reclamation, and other aspects of the proposed mine.		
20. What happens if you do not meet the deadline prescribed in the NDAA for the SMA?	Management Plan Implementation	
The Forest Service is directed by law to meet the deadline and currently is on track to comply with the deadline.		
21. How much veto power does Resolution Copper have over this process?	Management Plan Implementation	
Section 3003 of the NDAA establishes the Apache Leap Special Management Area and directs the Forest Service to prepare a management plan for the area.		
22. How do you conduct an Environmental Assessment on a plan that does not include on the ground site-specific activities?	NEPA process	
The EA evaluates the effects of the proposed action. In this case, the proposed action is to identify the suitable uses and types of activity for the area based on the purposes and other considerations outlined in the NDAA. (A similar example would be identifying various types of zoning within a city). The consequences or tradeoffs of allowing various uses or activities (over time and space) can be compared and disclosed in the environmental assessment. The decision will be to select the combination of uses and activities that best meets the identified purposes for the area for current and future generations considering the consultation advice from affected tribes, the Town of Superior, Resolution Copper and interested members of the public.		
23. If the mine and land exchange does not go through will you still have this?	Planning Process	
We cannot speculate on future scenarios, but the Forest Service would be obligated to follow any applicable future laws.		
24. Will you have to do another NEPA process for activities on the ground?	NEPA process	
Yes. The new plan will provide two things: strategic direction for managing the land and resources within the special area boundary; and a framework for guiding future decisions on site specific projects or activities. Any future site-specific projects or activities proposed for the area would be subject to additional review for compliance with the NEPA.		
25. If the NDAA is repealed does the SMA go away?	Management Plan Implementation	
We cannot speculate on future laws and how they may modify or repeal the NDAA, but the Forest Service would be obligated to follow any applicable future laws.		
26. The Recreation Users Group is looking at access within and outside the SMA. Will you be working with this group?	Planning Process	
Yes. TNF representatives are scheduled to meet with the group December 7, 2016.		

Table A-5. Public Input: Letters and Emails

Letter #	Affiliation	Comment Number	Comment	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
1	Town of Superior	1a	The Town of Superior's vision is to work with the Tonto National Forest and incorporate the Town's recreational objectives along with future considerations in the Forest Service's management plan for the area. The Apache Leap Special Management Area is an important component in the Town's plans to develop an ecotourism program and to stimulate economic diversity in the area, as well as a site important to the cultural identity of the residents of the Town of Superior.	Management Plan Implementation			
1	Town of Superior	1b	1. Preservation of iconic footprint of escarpment, to include measures for monitoring neighboring mining activities to ensure activities do not adversely affect Apache Leap.	Scenic Views	Retain Existing Character		
1	Town of Superior	1c	Continued, free access by citizens for current and future uses. Climbing Hunting Hiking Ziplines	Recreation	Climbing	Hunting	Hiking
1	Town of Superior		e. Grazing	Rangeland Resources	Grazing		
1	Town of Superior	1d	3. Existing motorized routes should be maintained, but no new routes should be developed. The plan should include motorized access to a trailhead for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Want to maintain opportunities for development of future recreation trails, and suggests the plan consider allowing new non- motorized trails if they can be developed in an ecologically reasonable manner.	Travel Management	Motorized Use		
1	Town of Superior	1e	4. Inclusion of a fire protection strategy, with a key component outlining access for firefighters to get to high-risk areas safely.	Fire Management			
1	Town of Superior	1f	5. The Town prefers no permanent or seasonal closures. If closures are deemed necessary, request they be implemented in the most economical way possible with minimal impact to users.	Land Use			
1	Town of Superior	1g	6. Request the Forest Service include the Town of Superior in current and future decisions involving Apache Leap.	Planning Process			
2	Citizen	2a	My home is 1 block from the road up to the base of Apache Leap (FS2440). It is close enough that I hike from my house up to hthe base of it 4 times a week.	Recreation	Hiking		

Letter #	Affiliation	Comment Number	Comment	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
2	Citizen	2b	It really is a magnificent area and I feel privileged to be living in Superior surrounded by the Tonto National Forest - it's truly a very special place.	Cultural/Heritage Resources	Sense of Place		
2	Citizen	2c	Hiking and possibly mountain biking are compatible with preserving the natural character of Apache Leap-- along FS 2440.	Recreation	Hiking	Biking	
2	Citizen	2d	Maintaining the trail across the Leap for hikers would also be good.	Recreation	Hiking		
2	Citizen	2e	I would not want to see livestock grazing or ATV use on route FS2440.	Recreation	OHV use	Rangeland Resources	
2	Citizen	2f	FS2440 isn't used for any traditional Native American practices. It should not be closed for that reason.	Land Use	Prescriptions		
2	Citizen	2g	Investigate what is actually there archaeologically and do an honest assessment of traditional uses.	Cultural/Heritage Resources			
2	Citizen	2h	What I would like to see are signs and a bit of history about the mine openings that are up there...or any other "sites" that might be there.	Management Plan Implementation			
2	Citizen	2i	I would be nice to have more trails or extend the trail so that it meets the one that runs along the top of the Leap	Recreation	Hiking		
2	Citizen	2j	I would like to see more done in our area to promote recreation use/activities.				
2	Citizen	2k	It is important to me that the activities of the recreational users be monitored as closely as the mine activities.	Mining Operations			

Table A-6. Public Input: Letters & Emails

Letter #	Affiliation	Comment Number	Comment	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
3	Citizen	3a	I spoke with you at the RUG meeting in Superior. As I mentioned then, I attended the ALSMA meeting in Superior in October 20, 2016. I read a summary of that meeting in the December 2016 Project Newsletter. It said, "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..." What I heard at the meeting was slightly different, and I think, makes a significant and important distinction. I heard people say that they would like future generations to both "enjoy the area much as it is now" and "in the same ways that they enjoy it now".	Planning Process			
4	Resolution Copper	4a	Consideration for existing and future uses of lands to install seismic monitoring equipment on the surface and subsurface to protect the resources located within ALSMA	Management Plan Implementation			
4	Resolution Copper	4b	Consideration for existing and future uses of lands to operate an underground tunnel and associated workings, as described in the Resolution Plan of Operations, subject to reasonable terms and conditions.	Management Plan Implementation			
4	Resolution Copper	4c	In accordance with the Prefeasibility Activities Plan of Operations (#03-12-02-006), continued maintenance and sampling of hydrological monitoring wells QC-04 and MB-03, and use of National Forest System Road 2440 (Cross Canyon Road) for access.	Water Resources	Water Quality	Water Quantity	
4	Resolution Copper	4d	Devil's Canyon Grazing Permit #12169 (Grazing Permit) and the use of all existing National Forest System Roads to gain access to the area of the ALSMA which the grazing permit falls within.	Rangeland Resources	Grazing		
5	Community Working Group	5a	The CWG submits that the uses outlined here represent culturally- important traditional uses of the natural environment that have been undertaken by area residents and visitors for decades.	Sense of Place			
6	Community Working Group	5b	CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to ALSMA rock climbing.	Recreation	Climbing		
7	Community Working Group	5c	CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to ALSMA flying kites and paper airplanes	Recreation			
8	Community Working Group	5d	CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to ALSMA social and informal community gatherings	Cultural/Heritage Resources	Sense of Place		
9	Community Working Group	5e	CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to ALSMA access via Cross Canyon Road, FR 2440	Travel Management	Public Access		

Letter #	Affiliation	Comment Number	Comment	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
10	Community Working Group	5f	CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to ALSMA access to the memorial crosses (which are not located in the ALSMA).	Travel Management	Public Access		
11	Community Working Group	5g	CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to ALSMA hunting.	Recreation	Hunting		
12	Community Working Group	5h	CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to ALSMA livestock grazing	Rangeland Resources	Grazing		
13	Community Working Group	5i	CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to ALSMA birding.	Recreation	Wildlife/Bird Watching		
14	Community Working Group	5j	CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to ALSMA maintain the signature views of Apache Leap from the region	Scenic Views	Retain Existing Character		
15	Community Working Group	5k	CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to ALSMA through these activities, to produce educational opportunities for future visitors to learn about Apache Leap and its rich cultural background, connections to Native American history, and connections to the the non-native cultures of the region	Cultural/Heritage Resources			
16	Community Working Group	5l	The group would like to emphasize their recommendation that ongoing consultation with all affected communities and stakeholder, both on a government-to-government and informal basis, be implemented by Tonto National Forest.	Planning Process			
6	Recreation Users Group	6a	Key assumptions on (the CWG's) plan, which the group requests be included in the ALSMA include the development of a hiking trail at the base of Apache Leap. This area has been used for informal hiking for many years by area residents and visitors.	Recreation	Hiking		
6	Recreation Users Group	6b	Key assumptions on (the CWG's) plan, which the group requests be included in the ALSMA include multi-use trails (including mountain bike use) in topographically feasible areas within the ALSMA	Recreation	Biking		
6	Recreation Users Group	6c	Continued access to the Cross Canyon Road, FR 2440	Travel Management	Public Access		
6	Recreation Users Group	6d	The RUG request that the ALSMA preserves the ability to use the area for recreational purposes listed above, pending separate NEPA analysis.	Recreation			

Letter #	Affiliation	Comment Number	Comment	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
6	Recreation Users Group	6e	We believe that continued historic uses and the expanded recreational venue will provide educational opportunities for future visitors to learn about Apache Leap and its rich cultural background and the connections with Native American history.	Sense of Place			
6	Recreation Users Group	6f	The group would like to emphasize their recommendation that ongoing consultation with all affected communities and stakeholder, both on a government-to-government and informal basis, be implemented by Tonto National Forest.	Planning Process			
7	Citizen	7a	As a member of the Community Working Group, I did not approve of the group request for additional access to the Apache Leap Special Management Area.	Public Access			
7	Citizen	7b	I do not approve of Rock climbing, Flying kites & paper airplanes, or social and informal community gatherings. These three items only spell trouble for Emergency Services and Pinal Search & Rescue.	Health and Human Safety			
7	Citizen	7c	It should be left as is, with no additional roads or trails, just leave existing trails and roads.	Retain Existing Character			
8	AZGFD	8a	The Department recommends utilizing our Online Environmental Review Tool (http://azhgis2.esri.com/) administered by the Department's Heritage Data Management System to obtain informatio on Special Status Species, Arizona's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) and of Economic and Recreation Importance (SERI), which have predicted ranges in teh vicinity of the projecta rea and are known to occur within 3 miles of the proposed plan area. We request that the needs of these species are considered within the SMA management plan and associated Environmental Assessment (EA).	Wildlife	Special Status Species		
8	AZGFD	8b	The SMA plan area falls within Game Management Unit 24A. The Department manages hunting opporutnity for javelina, mule deer, white-tailed deer, black bear, mountain lion, cottontail rabbit and quail. Maintaining hunting opportunity within the plan area is a high priority for the Department.	Recreation	Hunting		
8	AZGFD	8c	The Department conducts a variety of wildlife management activities statewide. These activities include, but are not limited to: ground and aerial survey, reintroduction and/or translocation and/or augmentation of existing historic species, maintenance and/or development of waters and habitat enhancements. Maintaining access to conduct the full range of wildlife management actions within the palan and surrounding area is alos a high priority for the Department.	Wildlife			

Letter #	Affiliation	Comment Number	Comment	Primary Code	Secondary Code	Tertiary Code	Quaternary Code
8	AZGFD	8d	We request the Forest maintain and/or enhance the current level of recreation opportunity within the plan area. We recommend that potential impacts to current levels of recreation, as a result of proposed restrictions that may be developed in the management planning, should be thoroughly analyzed in the EA.	Recreation			
8	AZGFD	8e	We understand the Forest has ongoing planning and decisions to be made on travel management that may change current motorized access and should be identified in the EA.	Travel Management			
9	State Senator, District 14	9a	I agree that the creation of the Special Management Area will help protect the iconic escarpment above the Town of Superior in Pinal County, Arizona.	Scenic Views			
9	State Senator, District 15	9b	Resolution Copper is fully in support of the land exchange and the creation of the Special Management Area. They have informed me that this will not affect their mining operations.	Mining Operations			
10	LOST	10a	The LOST is concerned that with the adoption of the Apache Leap Special Management Area valuable recreational access could be denied to this group of enthusiasts.	Public Access			
10	LOST	10a	We want to be certain that if regulations are adopted to protect cultural resources found on Apache Leap that the whole area, particularly the face of the mountain, is not taken away from the public to enjoy rock climbing, hiking, or mountain biking.	Public Access			