

PUBLIC NOTICE

Opportunity to Object to the Draft Decision Regarding the Apache Leap Special Management Area Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

Notice of Draft Decision

As the Responsible Official, Forest Supervisor Neil Bosworth has prepared a draft Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Apache Leap Special Management Area (SMA) Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA). The proposed action is to (1) prepare and adopt a programmatic management plan for the approximately 839-acre Apache Leap SMA; and (2) amend the 1985 Tonto National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan with a new management area and plan components for the Apache Leap SMA.

Along with the management plan, the draft DN and EA/FONSI are available to review online at: [<http://www.apacheleapsma.us/public-involvement>]. Hard and electronic copies (CDs) of these documents are available for review at the Globe Ranger District Office, Superior Public Library, and Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office.

How to Object and Time Frame

This decision is subject to the pre-decisional objection procedures identified in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 219, subpart B. According to 36 CFR 219.53(a), those who may file an objection are individuals and entities who have submitted substantive formal comments during opportunities provided for public comment during the planning and environmental review process for this decision. Only those who provided a substantive formal comment, as defined in 36 CFR 219.62, will be eligible to object to the proposed decision.

Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding holidays) 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. Electronically filed objections may be submitted by email in word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), portable document format (.pdf), and hypertext markup language (.html).

Objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following the publication of a legal notice in the *Arizona Capitol Times*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or time frame information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

At a minimum, the objection must include the following (36 CFR 219.54(c)):

- The objector's name and address, along with a telephone number or email address if available;
- Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);

- Identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection. Verification of the identity of the lead objector if requested;
- The name of the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision being objected to, and the name and title of the responsible official;
- A statement of the issues and/or the parts of the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision to which the objection applies;
- A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved. If applicable, the objector should identify how the objector believes that the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy; and
- A statement that demonstrates the link between prior substantive formal comments attributed to the objector and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment.

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in 36 CFR 219.54(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to 36 CFR 219.56(c). All objections will be available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

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