

Dear Reader:

After reviewing and considering all comments received during the 45-day scoping period on the proposed Apache Leap Special Management Area (SMA) management plan, the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) made edits and clarifications to the management plan to respond to comments raised by the public and consulting parties. The modified management plan can be found at <http://www.apacheleapsma.us/>.

The table below provides an overview of where major changes were made from the first version of the management plan. In addition to the changes highlighted below, the Forest Service made smaller edits and clarifications in response to both external and internal Forest Service comments. These edits were generally made for clarity and consistency in planning documents and do not represent major changes to the intent of the management plan components.

When the draft decision notice is issued, the Forest Service will be providing a response to all comments received during the 45-day scoping period to explain how the comment was addressed in the management plan or forthcoming Environmental Assessment (EA). The table below provides an overview of where the reader can find major changes in modified management plan.

Management plan changes to address concerns from the scoping period

Management Plan Topic	General Concern	Location in Management Plan where changes were made
<i>Planning Process</i>	How will the proposed management plan amend the forest plan?	Additional clarification on the relationship of the Apache Leap SMA management plan and the forest plan is now provided in Section 1.5, "Planning Process" (see page 5).
<i>Natural Character and Scenery</i>	Can the Forest Service explain the types of monitoring activities, including seismic monitoring, that might occur?	A more detailed discussion of monitoring intent (including seismic monitoring) and the proposed monitoring strategy is now included under Section 3.1.4, "Management Approaches," for Natural Character and Scenery (see page 16).
<i>Tribal</i>	Where in the plan are you addressing tribal concerns?	A new Section 3.2, "Tribal," was added to the management plan. The section includes desired conditions, guidelines, standards, and management approaches specific to tribal resources and concerns (see page 17).
<i>Cultural/Historic</i>	How will cultural resources be protected?	Additional clarification on the mitigation and monitoring strategy for cultural resources is now provided in Section 3.3.4, "Management Approaches," for Cultural/Historic (see page 19).
<i>Access</i>	How will the Forest Service maintain access for dispersed recreation, resource management, and authorized uses?	Sections 3.4, "Access," and 3.5, "Recreation," now include modified plan components as well as editing for clarity on how the Forest Service will maintain access to the Apache Leap SMA (see pages 19–23).
<i>Recreation</i>	How will the Forest Service work with the outdoor recreation community to ensure recreation activities can continue?	Section 3.5.4, "Management Approaches," for Recreation has been modified to clarify how the Forest Service will respond to proposals from the outdoor recreation community (see page 23).
<i>Livestock Grazing</i>	How will livestock grazing be managed for consistency with the NDAA and primary purposes of the Apache Leap SMA?	The plan components in Section 3.9, "Livestock Grazing," have been modified to exclude livestock grazing from the Apache Leap SMA (see page 27).
<i>Wildland Fire</i>	What are the specific policies for wildland fire management in the Apache Leap SMA?	Additional clarification was added to describe the ongoing wildland fire response in Section 3.10, "Wildland Fire" (see page 28).