

Apache Leap Special Management Area Management Plan
Tonto National Forest
Objection Resolution Agreement


On August 25, 2017, the Forest Supervisor of the Tonto National Forest, Neil Bosworth, released the Apache Leap Special Management Area (SMA) Management Plan and associated Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision Notice (DN). On August 29, David Gunn filed an objection.

On December 6, 2017, Neil Bosworth (Responsible Official) and Deputy Regional Forester Jim Upchurch (Objection Reviewing Official) met with Mr. Gunn to explore opportunities to resolve the objection. Both parties acknowledged that they are likely looking for similar outcomes in the implementation of this plan. The parties agreed that the close coordination and communication between the Forest Service, affected tribes, and the climbing community during the implementation of this plan will help ensure it is executed in the clearest and most effective way possible. As a result of this discussion, we were able to resolve Mr. Gunn's objection issues by agreeing to take the following action:

- Rewrite the second paragraph for Management Approach 3.5.4 for the Apache Leap Special Management Area management plan as follows:

Work with local non-governmental organizations, local governments, tribes, and recreation groups to establish sustainable rock climbing and bouldering expectations in the Apache Leap SMA. Develop an Apache Leap Special Management Area Climbing Management Plan in a manner consistent with the stated purposes of the Apache Leap SMA, as identified in the NDAA. Within the Climbing Management Plan, consider designating approaches to the escarpment from the west side, identifying existing and future climbing routes, and defining how climbing routes would be managed to minimize natural and cultural resource impacts.

As part of this agreement and objection resolution, Mr. Gunn agrees to withdraw his objection in whole.



David Gunn

12/30/17
Date

for 

Neil Bosworth, Forest Supervisor

01-04-17
Date