



January 24, 2017

Mr. Neil Bosworth  
Apache Leap SMA  
PO Box 34468  
Phoenix, AZ 85067-4468

**Re: Superior Community Working Group (CWG)  
Comments on Apache Leap Special Management Area**

Dear Mr. Bosworth,

In response to the Tonto National Forest's call for input from the public regarding the Apache Leap Special Management Area (ALSMA) Plan, the Superior Community Working Group (CWG) would like to submit the following requests regarding existing and future uses of the area for your consideration in developing the plan. These comments relate primarily to section (g)(5)(B)(ii) of Section 3003 of H.R. 3979 requiring the Secretary to consider measures to provide access for recreation. 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 many decades.

The Community Working Group's comments focus on preservation of existing recreational uses. The following is a list of the specific uses the majority of CWG members wish to see continued in and adjacent to the ALSMA:

- Continued historical use by the community of Superior and its youth, including:
  - Rock climbing
  - Flying kites & paper airplanes
  - Social and informal community gatherings
  - Access via Cross Canyon Road, FR 2440
  - Hiking (via FR 2440 and overland – entire area has been traversed)
  - Access to the memorial crosses (which are not located in the ALSMA)
- Hunting
- Livestock Grazing
- Birding
- Maintain the signature views of Apache Leap from the region.
- Through these activities, provide educational opportunities for future visitors to learn about Apache Leap and its rich cultural background, connections with Native American history, and connections to the non-native cultural history of the region.

The CWG requests that the ALSMA preserves the ability to use the area for the recreational purposes listed above. Additionally, the CWG would like to emphasize its recommendation that ongoing consultation with all affected communities and stakeholders, both on a government-to-government and informal basis, be implemented by Tonto National Forest.



Please contact our facilitator, John Godec, at 602-266-2226 or [jdg@godecrandall.com](mailto:jdg@godecrandall.com), if you have questions or would like further explanation of these comments. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

**Superior Community Working Group Members**

Arizona Trail Association – Fred Gaudet  
Central Arizona College – Dr. Jeff Bunkelmann  
Chamber of Commerce – Pamela Rabago, Rick Cartier  
Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center – Fernando Shipley  
Concerned Citizens & Retired Miners – Roy Chavez  
Copper Community Alliance – Hank Gutierrez  
Hewitt Station Area Ranchers – George & Lynn Martin  
Legends of Superior Trail – Bill & Nancy Vogler  
Optimist Club of Superior – Joanne Besich  
Queen Valley Area – Pam Bennett  
Queen Valley Domestic Water Improvement District – Cecil Fendley  
Rotary Club of Superior – Tom Spridgen  
San Carlos Apache Community – Karen Kitcheyan Jones  
Superior Area – Tiffany Rowell  
Superior Unified School District #15 – Arlynn Godinez  
Town of Superior – Anthony Huerta