

05-19-2024

Regional Forester
333 Broadway Blvd S.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Subject: Response to: Notice of Final Environmental Assessment and Opportunity to Object for the Yavapai Apache Nation Land Exchange Project.

Coconino Forest Supervisor: Aaron Mayville
Yavapai Forest Supervisor: Dale Deiter

Prior Objections: Sent via email 10-22-2023 from William and Mary Guth

Objections:

The proposed land exchange includes a portion of Middle Verde NF7 "A" which directly connects with our property on the East side. This is an abundant grassland area which creates a fire hazard. There have been brush fires in this area in the past which were fortunately brought under control by the Copper Canyon Fire Department. This trade will prevent us from maintaining a defensible space. According to The Final Environmental Assessment Report: "The Nation will not develop or maintain Future Trust Lands in a manner that would create an imminent peril to public health, safety or welfare or otherwise unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property for a community or neighborhood within the Town of Camp Verde." Included in the Final Assessment it states that Tribal Land will be closed to public access. This puts myself and my family at great risk from the threat of brush fires.

In addition to the above, the study cites "a small negative impact on the value of properties near the existing national forest boundary. The economic literature suggests that this effect, if any, would not amount to more than \$5,000 per home, which is less than 2.5 percent of the median home value in the town of Camp Verde." Land values in our location have already well exceeded this amount since the announcement of the Yavapai Apache Land Exchange.

[REDACTED]

William and Mary Guth

[REDACTED]

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REGIONAL FORESTER'S OFFICE
SOUTHWESTERN REGION