

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office](#)
Cc: [Hancock, Paul - FS, AZ](#); [Lever, Rob - FS, AZ](#)
Subject: objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov
Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 4:36:05 PM

Dear Regional Forester Martin:

I would like for you to consider my objection to the closing of FR 161 in the Black Mesa Ranger District under the provisions of Item 4 of the Notice of Objection.

I am the president of the Arizona Alpine Trail Inc. which was incorporated June 21, 2021 and which unfortunately was after the original comment date deadline for the TMP for Apache-Sitgreaves, so we were not in existence to comment originally.

Our objection is that the FR 161 is used frequently by the Arizona Alpine Trail and White Mountain Open Trails Association for OHV travel between the Deer Springs Lookout and many lower elevation roads in both Black Mesa and Lakeside ranger Districts.. Using FR 161 avoids FR 300 which in that area as you know is fast, dusty and busy, all of which are safety concerns for all of us.

I understand that FR 161 crosses private land without an easement, and may be a consideration in your decision to list this closure, but I would suggest that you have your legal team consider a Prescriptive Easement. In Arizona the ""continuous use" period requirement is 10 years.

The Arizona Alpine Trail has been a partner with Apache-Sitgreaves, Tonto and Coconino forests in working out its alignment of the "trail" and we would like to thank you and your staff for the timely assistance and professional relationship we have developed.

Thank you for your consideration of accepting this objection.

Jerry Smith, President
Arizona Alpine Trail, Inc
[REDACTED]