

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/15/2024 8:28:09 PM

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Comments: My email address has changed from maurice133@cableone.net, to maurice133@mail.com, or mauricecolwell@gmail.com, (preferred) during the various reviews. My effort began in 2019 when I assisted our club and Apache ATV members with submitting all their known OHV trails for inclusion into the motorized travel plan. In a 2019 meeting with Lakeside Ranger District personnel, I asked about the preservation of dispersed campsites and the user created access roads to them and was assured they would remain unchanged. Later that year, during the plan and map review in Show Low, I met the Springerville District Ranger who informed me that, no, the access roads to those remotely located dispersed campsites were going to be closed. I was shocked, and along with many others submitted protest letters.

As I read the statements in the Record of Decision and Summaries of the Comments in the EIS, Appendix A, I called Scott Grunder and he agreed to meet with us to look at maps and discuss the issue. The meeting was very helpful to convince me the plan requires the access roads to be closed and most of the remote dispersed campsites will not survive due to the difficulty to access them.

Is there a solution to this problem? I think there could be as I had a report that the Tonto National Forest is agreeable to consider putting their dispersed camping locations and access roads under Forest Service management. If such an arrangement could be implemented in Apache Sitgreaves it would be a very positive and welcome change from what the current plan requires. We welcome the opportunity to work with the forest service to implement such an arrangement.