

CQ MAGAZINE – CQ Now
April 4, 2016

Campground's Fate Has Gosar Up in Arms

By Kate Ackley, CQ Roll Call

Rep. Paul Gosar has a message for the National Park Service: Better watch your budget.

The Arizona Republican is enraged that the agency recently listed a public campground in the Tonto National Forest east of Phoenix on the National Register of Historic Places. He's not looking out for campers, though. The move at least temporarily may thwart a planned copper mine.

"Obama's minions are hell-bent on sabotaging an important mining effort," says Gosar.

Gosar has pledged to stop it by using the congressional power of the purse, and his spokesman, Steven Smith, says his boss will make good: In 2015 alone, Gosar "successfully passed 27 amendments to the House appropriations bills and you can bet that he will do the same thing to defund this bogus historic designation aimed at sabotaging 3,700 new jobs and \$60 billion for Arizona's economy," he says.

The site, though, is sacred to the San Carlos Apache Tribe and it fought for the designation. "Our people, to this day, go to that area to pray because our ancestors have taught us over the years that is a special place of prayer," says Terry Rambler, the chairman of the San Carlos Apache, whose reservation headquarters is 50 miles east of the campground.

But Gosar expects he may have another avenue of attack, by challenging the Park Service's process for making the designation. The congressman's office put out a statement complaining that the Park Service gave the public fewer than five business days to weigh in.

Gosar has an ally in Democratic Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, who represents the affected district. Gosar's abuts it. In a letter last year they requested that the Park Service withdraw the site from consideration "until such time as you can properly describe the location, scope and extent of the impacted area and properly follow the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act."

Before the Park Service created the Chi'chil Bildagoteel Historic District, the San Carlos Apache reported lobbying on such issues as "sacred sites," natural resources and community development. It paid lobbying firm Mapetsi Policy Group \$160,000 last year.

[Mining](#)

[National Park Service](#)

kateackley@rollcall.com

Source: **CQ Magazine**

© 2016 CQ Roll Call All Rights Reserved.