

**Policy Statement on Queen Creek  
Arizona Mountaineering Club Board of Directors  
September 15, 2009**

The representatives of the Arizona Mountaineering Club have been closely involved with the proposed Mine and Land Exchange in the Queen Creek area since January 2004 when our Land Advocacy Chair first began alerting its members. We participated with the Friends of Queen Creek when it was formed in April of 2004, and our representatives worked diligently with other members of the rock climbing community to negotiate with Resolution Copper.

At that time, the President of Resolution was adamant that rock climbing could not co-exist with the mining activities, and the draft legislation put forward was slanted very much against long term rock climbing. Rock climbing at the Mine Area and nearby crags would be closed either immediately or within two years after passage of the legislation and limited other rock climbing was subject to a 5-year climbing license that was unilaterally revocable by Resolution. Many historic rock climbing access would have been lost as soon as roads were closed.

Because that arrangement was so one sided, the AMC led the fight to re-open the negotiations, and working with the Friends of Queen Creek, formed the Queen Creek Coalition in January of 2008, four years after the AMC began to fight for climbers.

Working within the QCC framework, representatives of the AMC began new negotiations with Resolution, and through the shift of new Resolution management and new legislative drafts, we improved our position for the rock climbing community and laid out a series of working points of the elements we wanted to obtain for climbers. The current efforts aim to secure regional rock climbing elements that would provide a true climbers' destination for future generations.

We have an offer on the table from Resolution that contains many promising elements for continued rock climbing at Queen Creek. Below please find a comparison of what the climbers have asked for and what Resolution has offered. While the arrangement has elements that are far from perfect, and many details will need to be worked out, the AMC Board recognizes that under current arrangements and without the Land Exchange bill rock climbing is far from secured. Such areas as the Pond and Atlantis are on lands owned by Resolution Copper. Indeed, the Mine Area could even be closed by Resolution under their use permits for USFS lands and that our access to Devils Canyon climbing areas is currently dependent on roads that Resolution has a hand in maintaining, and could be closed unless we reach a good long term agreement.

The AMC Board, through its role to establish club policy, holds that we should continue the negotiations with Resolution and secure long term rock climbing access at Queen Creek and the larger region. If a satisfactory arrangement could be secured for long term rock climbing, it may even be prudent to consider a position of Non-Opposition to the Land Exchange.

Further, the AMC Board holds that we should widen our negotiating stance to include any and all land owners and managers who could play a role in securing long term regional rock climbing resources. Our perspective should be to begin discussions with the local communities, with the USFS and other local land managers, along with Resolution, to enhance the overall recreational opportunities at Queen Creek and around the region surrounding Queen Creek. This Grand Strategy will be our guiding policy orientation – secure the most rock climbing possible through positive interchange and dialog with the land owners and managers.

### **Current Status of Negotiations with Resolution Copper**

#### QCC asked for in letter of Understanding

#### RCM Response

1.Maintain surface integrity (no subsidence)	No
2.Comply with Environmental regulations	Presumably
3.Respect Multicultural traditions	Working w/Tribes
4.Green Belt	RCM to facilitate
5.Fee simple transfer of Pond	Yes
6.Fee simple transfer of Atlantis	No – license ‘til 2060 +
7.Fee simple transfer of other privately held lands	
Apache Leap South End	Yes
Dripping Springs (near Tamo)	Yes
8.Fully fund Tamo as State Park	Governor shot down
9.Roads and infrastructure for Land of the Lost, Steamboat Mt.,The Drip & Homestead	After mine approval, RCM will assist efforts.
10. Access and Infrastructure for Inconceivables, Pond, Upper Pond and Chill Hill	Yes RCM giving \$1.25M
11.Relocate boulders and vegetation	RCM & QCC will discuss
12.Coexistence Agreement	Yes

#### Additional items not in original QCC Letter of Understanding but with RCM offered

- a. RCM will work w/ F.S. and climbers to “turnkey” and pay for access and facilities to the Pond and Upper Pond prior to land exchange.
- b. License Central Oak Flat, Eurodog Valley, Mine Area and areas of Apache Leap owned by RCM until 2019 with renewal option.
- c. RCM will grant permanent easement to Apache Leap through Cross Creek
- d. RCM will grant permanent easement to Devils Canyon along Power Line road.
- e. RCM will license Magma Mine and Drill roads to Lower Devil Canyon until F.S. road available.
- f. RCM will donate \$1M after land exchange for Tamo.
- g. RCM will pay \$50K into hardware fund to maintain and develop climbing routes.
- h. RCM will pay for or self insure liability insurance for licensed areas.