

Order No. 03-12-01-24-20



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service
Tonto National Forest
Cave Creek Ranger District**

**Wildcat Fire Emergency Area Closure
for Public Health and Safety**

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a), the following is prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands and roads in the Cave Creek Ranger District, Tonto National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the “Described Area”):

1. Going into or being up the Described Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e)

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.50(e)(1) or (2).
2. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting resource in the performance of an official duty.
3. Bartlett Lake Marina owners, staff, and employees in direct coordination with the Wildcat Fire Incident Command Team.

DESCRIBED AREA

All National Forest System (NFS) lands, roads, and trails, starting from the southwest corner of junction NFS Road 24 (commonly referred to as Cave Creek Rd or Seven Springs Rd) and non-forest service ownership, then following east along the north side of NFS Road 19, then following south, east and south for approximately 20 miles along the national forest boundary to reference point 33° 44.690 N x -111° 40.967 W, then following directly east for approximately 0.5 miles to reference point 33° 44.690 N x -111° 40.315 W, on NFS Road 20, then following NFS Road 20 generally north along the west side for approximately 2.75 miles to the shoreline of the Verde River encompassing Needle Rock Beach, then following generally north from Needle Rock Beach along the west side of the Verde River, including the shoreline, for approximately 32 miles to reference point, 33° 59.030' N x -111° 42.668' W, located at Horseshoe Dam, then following directly west for approximately 5 miles to reference point 33° 59.885' N x -111° 47.869' W, located at the Humboldt Mountain Lookout, then following NFS Road 562 southwest along the southeast side for approximately 4 miles to the intersection with NFS Road 24, then following NFS Road 24 south along the east side for approximately 8 miles to the point of beginning at NFS Road 24 and the southwest corner of non-forest service ownership.

Note: A portion of NFS Road 20 is within the Described Area and closed, beginning at reference point, 33° 44.690 N x -111° 40.315 W, then following generally north for approximately 2.75 miles until its terminus at Needle Rock Beach

NFS Roads 562 and 24 remain open.

PURPOSE

To provide public health and safety due to firefighting operations and fire danger associated with the uncontrolled Wildcat Fire on the Tonto National Forest.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from May 20, 2024, at 8:00am through June 19, 2024, at 6:00pm, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/tonto/alerts-notice>
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this Order, the terms used in this Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.

4. A violation of the above prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
5. Contact the Cave Ranger District in Scottsdale, AZ, (480) 595-3300, and Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office in Phoenix, AZ, (602) 225-5200, for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes Order 03-12-01-24-19, dated May 18, 2024.

Signed and issued on May 19, 2024.

NEIL
BOSWORTH
Neil Bosworth
Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest

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BOSWORTH
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