

**Order No. 03-12-00-24-35**



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service  
Tonto National Forest  
Cave Creek and Mesa Ranger Districts**

**Sand Stone Fire Public Safety Area  
Emergency Closure**

**PROHIBITIONS**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following is prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) area, road and trails in the Cave Creek and Mesa 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 upon the Described Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e)
2. Being on any road within the Described Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.54(e).
3. Being on any trail within the Described Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.55(a).

**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.

**DESCRIBED ROAD AND TRAILS**

The Described Area consists of all National Forest System lands, roads, and trails within the boundary starting at the intersection of National Forest System Road (NFSR) 204 and State Route (SR) 87, then following southwest along the northwest side of SR 87 approximately 1.75 miles to its intersection with the private land known as Goldfield Estates, then following north and west along the private land boundary approximately 4 miles to the intersection with the National Forest Boundary and Fort McDowell Reservation, then following the National Forest Boundary north and west approximately 8.25 miles to the intersection with the Verde River, then following north along the east side of the Verde River approximately 9.5 miles to the intersection with Motorized Trail (MT) 393, then following northeast along the northwest side of MT-393 approximately 4.5 miles to the intersection with NFSR 393, then following northeast along the southwest side of NFSR 393 approximately 11 miles to the intersection with MT-393, then following northeast along the northwest side of MT-393 approximately 3 miles to the intersection with NFSR 627, then following south along the east side of NFSR 627 approximately 1.75 miles to the intersection with the private land also known as the Sunflower Community, then following generally south along the private land boundary approximately 1.75 miles to the intersection with SR 87, then following generally south along the west side of SR 87 approximately 19 miles back to the point of beginning at the intersection with NFSR 204.

Routes along the Described Area boundary that are closed include; NFSR 393, NFSR 627, and MT-393. SR 87 remains open.

<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sections</b>
3N	7E	1-4, and 12
3N	8E	4-8 and 18
4N	7E	1-5, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36
4N	8E	4-9, 11, 14, 16-21, 23, 28-33, PB38-PB40, PB43, PB44, PB47, PB48
5N	7E	1-5, 8-13, 15-17, 24, 29-30, 32-36, PB38, PB40, PB42-PB50
5N	8E	3-10, 14-22, 27-29, PB38-PB40, PB42, PB45-PB51
6N	7E	24-26, 34-36
6N	8E	1-3, 8, 9, 11-13, 15-17, 19-22, 25, 27-36, PB37-PB45
6N	9E	6, 7, 18-20, 29-31
7N	8E	34-36, PB46

## PURPOSE

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

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from July 29, 2024, at 8:00am through August 31, 2024, at 6:00pm, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Road and Trails 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 any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts on the same Described Road and Trails.

Signed and issued on July 29, 2024.

NEIL

BOSWORTH

Digitally signed by NEIL BOSWORTH  
Date: 2024.07.29 14:07:04 -0700

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Neil Bosworth  
Forest Supervisor  
Tonto National Forest