

**Order Number: # 03-12-00-24-71**



**U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service  
Tonto National Forest - Payson Ranger District  
&  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest – Black Mesa Ranger District**

**Horton Fire Emergency Closure Order  
for Public Health & Safety**

**PROHIBITIONS**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50 (a) and (b), the following are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands, roads and trails in the Payson and Mogollon Ranger Districts, Tonto and Coconino National Forests, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the “Described Area, Roads, and Trails”):

1. Going into or being upon the Described Area. **36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e)**
2. Being on the road within the Described Area. **36 C.F.R. § 261.54(e)**
3. Being on the 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 force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Arizona Dept. of Fire and Forestry Management contractor Suarez Forestry and Canyon Creek Logging to operate on and around Forest Road 64.

4. Residents of Tonto Rim Christian Camp, Tonto Estates, Zane Grey Private Property, and Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery being on Forest Service Road 289.

## **DESCRIBED AREA, ROAD, AND TRAILS**

The Described Area consists of all National Forest System (NFS) lands, roads, and trails within the Boundary starting at the intersection of the State Route 260 and NFS Road 289, then following north along NFS ROAD 289 for approximately 3.85 miles to the junction with Tonto Creek near Hatchery Trailhead, then following north along Tonto Creek for approximately 1.5 miles to the junction of the 3 National Forest Boundaries (Tonto, Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves), then following northeast along the Coconino and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest boundaries approximately 0.45 miles to the intersection with NFS Road 300, then following generally southeast along NFS Road 300 approximately 1.65 miles to the intersection with NFS Road 115, then following generally southeast along NFS Road 300 for approximately 3.85 miles to the intersection with NFS Road 89, then following generally southeast along the south side of NFS Road 300 approximately 1 mile to the intersection with NFS Road 208S, then following southeast along NFS Road 208S for approximately 0.75 miles to its terminus at the junction with the Tonto National Forest Boundary at Reference Point 33° 21.503' N x -111° 00.599' W then following directly south for approximately 0.45 miles to the terminus of Trail 185 See Spring, at Reference Point 33° 21.128' N x -111° 00.711' W, then following south along Trail 185, See Spring, approximately 0.5 miles to the junction with Trail 184, See Canyon, then following south along Trail 184, See Canyon, approximately 0.5 miles to the junction with NFS Road 284, then following generally south along NFS Road 284 approximately 1.75 miles to the junction of the Non Forest Service Ownership and Christopher Creek Loop road, then following generally west along the Non Forest Service Ownership and Christopher Creek Loop road approximately 1.4 miles to the intersection with State Route 260, then following west along the north side of State Route 260 approximately 3.75 miles back to the point of beginning at the intersection with NFS Road 289.

Routes along the Described Area boundary that are closed include: NFS Road 289, NFS Road 208S, NFS Road 284, Trail 184 See Spring, Trail 185 See Canyon. A section of route NFS Road 300 is closed between NFS Road 115 and NFS Road 89. Routes that remain open include State Route 260, NFS Road 300 (Besides the closed section), and Christopher Creek Loop Road.

Non-Motorized Trails that are closed within the boundary include: Trail 31 Highline, Trail 32 Derrick Spur, Trail 33 Derrick, Trail 184 See Canyon. Trail 185 See Spring, Trail 285 Horton Creek, and Trail 292 Horton Spring.

Recreation Sites that are closed include: Lower and Upper Tonto Creek Campgrounds, Horton Creek Day Use Area, Hatchery Trailhead, Horton Trailhead, See Canyon Trailhead, and See Canyon Trailhead.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Order is to protect public health and safety due to firefighting operations and fire danger associated with the uncontrolled Horton Fire on the Tonto and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests.

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from December 18, 2024, at 10:00am through January 31, 2024, at 06:00pm, unless rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area, Roads, 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 Payson Ranger District in Payson, AZ, (928) 474-7900, and Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office in Phoenix, AZ, (602) 225-5200, or the Black Mesa Ranger District in Overgaard, AZ, (928) 535-7300, and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Supervisor's Office in Springerville, AZ, (928) 333-6280 for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts on and in the same Described Area, Roads, and Trails.

Signed and issued on December 18, 2024.

**NEIL  
BOSWORTH**  
Neil Bosworth  
Forest Supervisor  
Tonto National Forest

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Date: 2024.12.18 07:13:02 -0700'

**ROBERT  
LEVER**  
Robert Lever  
Forest Supervisor  
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

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