

Order Number: # 03-12-03-24-05



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

**Lower Sycamore Area Temporary Closure Order
For Public Health and Safety**

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a), the following are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands, roads, and motorized trails in the 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).

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. Forest Service volunteers and partners under a signed volunteer agreement or partnership performing official project work (i.e. sign installation, trash pickup) in the Described Area.

DESCRIBED AREA

All National Forest System lands, roads, and trails within the boundary beginning at the

intersection of State Route (SR) 87 and NFS Road (NFSR) 204 (Bush Highway), following southwest along the north side of SR 87 until the junction with the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation boundary, then following north along the reservation boundary until Global Positioning System (GPS) or “Point Coordinates” 33° 42.557’ N / -111° 37.249’ W, then heading directly east two miles until the junction of Motorized Trail (MT) 1096 at “Point Coordinates” 33° 42.568’ N / -111° 35.048’ W, then following northeast and northwest along MT-1096 until its intersection with MT-160, then following northeast along MT-160 until its intersection with MT-P5008, then following MT-P5008 northeast until its intersection with MT-P5007B, then following MT-P5007B northeast until its intersection with MT-P5004A, then following north along MT-P5004A until its intersection with MT-3456, then following east along MT-3456 to its intersection with SR 87, then following the north side of SR 87 southwest, back to the point of beginning, at the intersection of SR 87 and Bush Highway.

All NFS roads and trails within the Described Area and comprising the Described Area boundary are closed, as depicted in Exhibit A.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to protect public health and safety due to potential flash flooding in the Described Area.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from February 06, 2024, at 3:00pm through February 12, 2024, at 6:00am, 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 Mesa Ranger District in Mesa, AZ, (480) 610-3300, 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 in the same Described Area.

Signed and issued on February _____, 2023.

NEIL BOSWORTH
Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest