

**Order Number: # 03-12-01-24-07**



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

**Emergency closure for Needle Rock, Box Bar Recreation Sites  
and MT-413, for Public Health and 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 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/Roads/Trails”).

1. Going into or being upon the Described Area. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(e)
2. Entering or using a developed recreation site or portion thereof. 36 C.F.R. § 261.58(b).
3. Being on the Described Roads. 36 C.F.R. § 261.54(e)
4. Being on the Described Trails. 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. Any Federal, State, or Local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
2. 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).

## **DESCRIBED AREA/ROADS/TRAILS**

All NFS lands, roads, and trails within the boundary beginning at the intersection of National Forest System (NFS) Road 20, also referred to as Needle Rock Road, and NFS Road 2117, then following south along the east side of NFS Road 20 to the intersection with NFS Road 2150, then following east and south along the northern edge of NFS Road 2150 to the entrance to the Box Bar Recreation Area, then following the unnamed road leading into the Box Bar Recreation Area to the site, located at 33° 44 '37.8" N, -111° 39' 37.6" W, then following the western edge of the Box Bar Developed Recreation site south to NFS Road 160, then following on NFS Road 160, along the southern edge, east to the west shoreline of the Verde River, then following the west shoreline of the Verde River North to the Needle Rock Recreation Site adjacent to NFS Road 413, then following northwest to NFS Road 413, then following southwest along the east edge of NFS Road 20, back to the point of beginning at the intersection of NFS Road 20 and NFS Road 2117.

All National Forest System lands and roads within the Described Area and comprising the Described Area boundary are closed including, the Needle Rock Recreation Site, located at 33° 44' 38.39" N, -111° 39' 38.58" W, and Box Bar Recreation Site, located at 33° 44' 37.8" N, -111° 39' 37.6" W, and NFS Road 160.

Motorized Trail (MT) 413 will be closed starting from Bartlett Dam Road (NFS Road 19), following south approximately 10.5 miles to it's terminus at the Needle Rock Recreation Site.

NFS Road 20 (Needle Rock Road) remains open.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Order is to protect public health and safety due to unsafe conditions affected by flash flooding.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

1. This Order will be in effect on February 6, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. and shall remain in effect until February 12, 2024, at 6:00 a.m. or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.
2. A map identifying the Described Area/Roads/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. Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at the Cave Creek Ranger District located at 40202 North Cave Creek Road Scottsdale, AZ 85262, Telephone number (480) 595-3300, and at the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office in Phoenix, Arizona. The telephone number (602) 225-5200.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts In and on the same Described Area/Roads/Trails.

Signed and issued on February 6, 2024.

NEIL  
BOSWORTH

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BOSWORTH  
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Neil Bosworth  
Forest Supervisor  
Tonto National Forest