

**Order Number: # 03-12-04-24-02**



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

**Poco Pino Restoration Area 7 Temporary Closure Order  
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 Payson Ranger District, Tonto National Forest, 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 Described Road. 36 C.F.R. § 261.54(e)
3. Being on the Described Trail. 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.
3. Forest Service volunteers and partners operating under a signed volunteer agreement or partnership performing official project work (i.e. sign installation, trash pickup) in the Described Area, Roads, and Trails.

4. Thru hikers on Forest Service Trail 16 (Oak Springs/Old Highline/AZ Trail) may use NFS Road 297 (via State Route 87 easement) for alternate route.

## **DESCRIBED AREA, ROADS, and TRAILS**

The Described Area is within Township 11.5 North Range 9 East Section PB 42. It consists of all National Forest System lands, roads, and trails, starting at the junction of State Route (SR) 87 and the Non-Forest Service Ownership boundary on the South end of the Pine Community, then following East approximately 0.25 miles along the Non-Forest Service Ownership boundary to a Reference Point  $34^{\circ} 22' 30.86''$  N x  $-111^{\circ} 26' 35.48''$  W, then following directly South approximately 0.06 miles to the Pine Trailhead, then following generally East approximately 0.7 miles along the South side of the Highline Trail #31 to the junction with Old Highline Trail #19, then following directly East approximately 0.25 miles to a Reference Point  $34^{\circ} 22' 27.40''$  N x  $-111^{\circ} 25' 49.50''$  W, then following directly South approximately 0.5 miles to a Reference Point  $34^{\circ} 22' 00.05''$  N x  $-111^{\circ} 25' 49.48''$  W, then following directly West approximately 0.2 miles to the junction of SR 87 and Motorized Trail (MT) 1011, then following Northwest along the Northeast side of SR 87 for approximately 1 mile back to the point of beginning at the junction of SR 87 and the Non-Forest Service Ownership.

**Note:** NFS Road 297 will be closed from the intersection with State Route (SR) 87, traveling east to the intersection with NFS Trail #16 Oak Spring and NFS Trail #31 Highline

Motorized Trail (MT) -1011 will be closed starting from the intersection of MT-1011 and SR 87, following north until its terminus.

NFS Trail 16 (Oak Spring) will be closed starting from intersection of NFS Road 297, following southeast until the junction with SR87.

NFS Trail 19 (Old Highline) will be closed starting at the intersection of NFS Trail 16 (Oak Spring), then following southeast, east, and then northeast until its terminus at the intersection with NFS Trail 31 (Highline) at the Described area boundary at reference point at  $34^{\circ} 22' 27.30''$  N x  $-111^{\circ} 26' 04.09''$  W.

SR 87 and Highline Trail #31 will remain open.

## **PURPOSE**

To protect National Forest System resources and public health and safety of volunteer participants and Forest Service partners during a large-scale clean-up and restoration project.

## IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from March 18, 2024, at 6:00am through June 18, 2024, at 6:00pm, 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, for more information about this Order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in the same Described Area, Roads, and Trails.

Signed and issued on Month 15, 2024.

Digitally signed by Ericka Luna  
Date: 2024.03.15 16:31:37 -07'00'

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Ericka Luna  
Deputy Forest Supervisor  
Tonto National Forest