



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

**Wildcat Fire Emergency Area Closure
for Public Health and Safety**

PROHIBITIONS

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

1. Going into or being up 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.

DESCRIBED AREA

All National Forest System lands, roads, and trails within the boundary starting at the intersection of National Forest System (NFS) Road 19 (Commonly referred as Bartlett Dam Rd) and NFS Road 24 (Commonly referred as Cave Creek Rd/Seven Springs Rd) near the Cave Creek Ranger District Office, then following generally south and east

along the Non-Forest Service Ownership Boundary approximately 18.5 miles to the junction with Rio Verde Dr, then following east along the north side of Rio Verde Dr approximately 0.75 miles to the intersection with NFS Road 20 (Commonly referred as Needle Rock Rd), then following generally north along the west side of NFS Road 20 approximately 3 miles to the junction with the Verde River near Needle Rock Beach, which remains open, then following generally north along the west side of the Verde River approximately 4.5 miles to the junction with NFS Road 19, then following north along the west side of NFS Road 19 approximately 4 miles to the intersection with NFS Road 459 (Commonly referred as North Lake Rd), then following northeast along the west side of NFS Road 459 for approximately 2 miles to the intersection with Motorized Trail (MT) 42, then following northwest along the northeast side of MT-42 approximately 5.25 miles to the intersection with MT-532, then following northeast along the southeast side of MT-532 approximately 0.75 miles to the junction with the Verde River, then following generally northwest along the west side of the Verde River approximately 5 miles to the junction with Reference Point 33° 57.689' N x -111° 42.269' W, then following directly south for approximately 0.1 miles to the Reference Point 33° 57.633' N x -111° 42.285' W, along NFS Road 205 (Commonly referred as Horseshoe Dam Rd), then following southwest along the southeast side of NFS Road 205 approximately 6.25 miles to the intersection with MT-1058, then following generally southwest along the south side of MT-1058 approximately 5.5 miles to the junction with Non-Forest Service Ownership, then following southwest and northwest along the Non-Forest Service Ownership boundary approximately 0.5 miles to the junction with NFS Road 1058, then following southwest along the north side of NFS Road 1058 for approximately 0.5 miles to the intersection with NFS Road 24, then following southwest along the east side of NFS Road 24 approximately 1 mile to the junction with the Non-Forest Service Ownership, then following south along the Non-Forest Service Ownership approximately 2 miles back to the point of beginning at the intersection of NFS Road 24 and NFS Road 19.

Note: Routes along the Described Area boundary that remain open include Rio Verde Dr, NFS Road 19 (Bartlett Dam Rd), NFS Road 20 (Needle Rock Rd), NFS Road 459 (North Lake Rd), NFS Road 205 (Horseshoe Dam Rd), and NFS Road 24 (Cave Creek Rd/Seven Springs Rd).

Routes along the Described Area boundary that are closed include MT-42, MT-532, MT-1058, and NFS Road 1058.

The Cave Creek Ranger District Office also remains open during normal business hours.

PURPOSE

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

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from May 23, 2024, at 4:00pm through June 22, 2024, at 6:00pm, 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 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 Order 03-12-01-24-20, dated May 20, 2024.

Signed and issued on May 23, 2024.

NEIL
BOSWORTH

Digitally signed by
NEIL BOSWORTH
Date: 2024.05.23
10:51:19 -07'00'

Neil Bosworth
Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest