



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U.S. FOREST SERVICE  
TONTO NATIONAL FOREST  
CAVE CREEK RANGER DISTRICT

*Verde River Seasonal Bald Eagle Temporary Area and Road Closures*

**PROHIBITIONS**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on the roads and within the areas described in this Order (the "Restricted Areas") and as depicted on the attached maps, hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A, within the Cave Creek Ranger District, Tonto National Forest, Maricopa County, State of Arizona.

1. Going into or being upon the Restricted Areas. **36 C.F.R § 261.53(a).**
2. Being on the roads. **36 C.F.R § 261.54(e).**

**EXEMPTIONS**

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a written Forest Service authorization specifically exempting them from the effect of this Order.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Persons affiliated with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Maricopa Audubon Society, or the Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program in the performance of their official duties.
4. Persons traversing on the Verde River through the Restricted Areas. Stopping and exiting the Verde River within the Restricted Areas noted below is prohibited.

## **RESTRICTED AREAS**

**Bartlett BA – Restricted Area 1:** This Restricted Area is within Township 5N, Range 7E, Sections 5-8, 17, and 18. It begins downstream of Bartlett Dam and the Indian Spring Wash confluence with the Verde River, roughly one river kilometer downstream of Riverside Campground at river kilometer 36, and continues downstream to the Needle Rock recreation site. The Restricted Area includes land on the east and west (river left and right respectively) sides of the Verde River.

**Needle Rock BA – Restricted Area 2:** This Restricted Area includes portions of Township 5N, Range 7E, Sections 17, 19, 20, 28-30. It begins at the terminus of the Bartlett BA Restricted Area 1, above, just downstream of river kilometer 30 at the Needle Rock recreation site and continues downstream to river kilometer 26. The Restricted Area is located east of the Verde River and skirts the base of the cliffs east of National Forest System Road (NFSR) 1116. NFSR 407 enters the Restricted Area from the east. The portions of NFSR 1116 and NFSR 407 that lie within the Restricted Area are closed during the time that this Order is in effect.

**Box Bar BA – Restricted Area 3:** This Restricted Area includes portions of Township 5N, Range 7E, Sections 29 and 32. It begins at the downstream terminus of the Needle Rock BA Restricted Area 2, above, at river kilometer 26, and continues downstream to river kilometer 24. The Restricted Area is located east of the Verde River or downstream left and includes the cliff face east of the river. The portions of NFSR 407 and MT 160C that lie within the Restricted Area are closed during the time that this Order is in effect.

**Box Bar BA – Restricted Area 4:** This Restricted Area includes portions of Township 5N, Range 7E, Sections 29 and 30. It is located west of the Verde River and north of the Box Bar recreation site. The nest tree, a cottonwood, is in the center of the Restricted Area; the boundary of the Restricted Area extends to a radius of approximately 800 feet from the nest tree.

## **PURPOSE**

To provide short-term seasonal protection of nesting bald eagles during their critical reproductive period in high-intensity recreation areas where noise is likely to adversely affect the success of nesting and fledgling eagles.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

1. This Order will be effective on December 01, 2021, at 8:00 a.m., and will remain in effect seasonally each year through June 30, until June 30, 2023, or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.
2. A Map identifying the Restricted Areas is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of the Order maps for the Tonto National Forest, navigate to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/tonto/alerts-notice>.

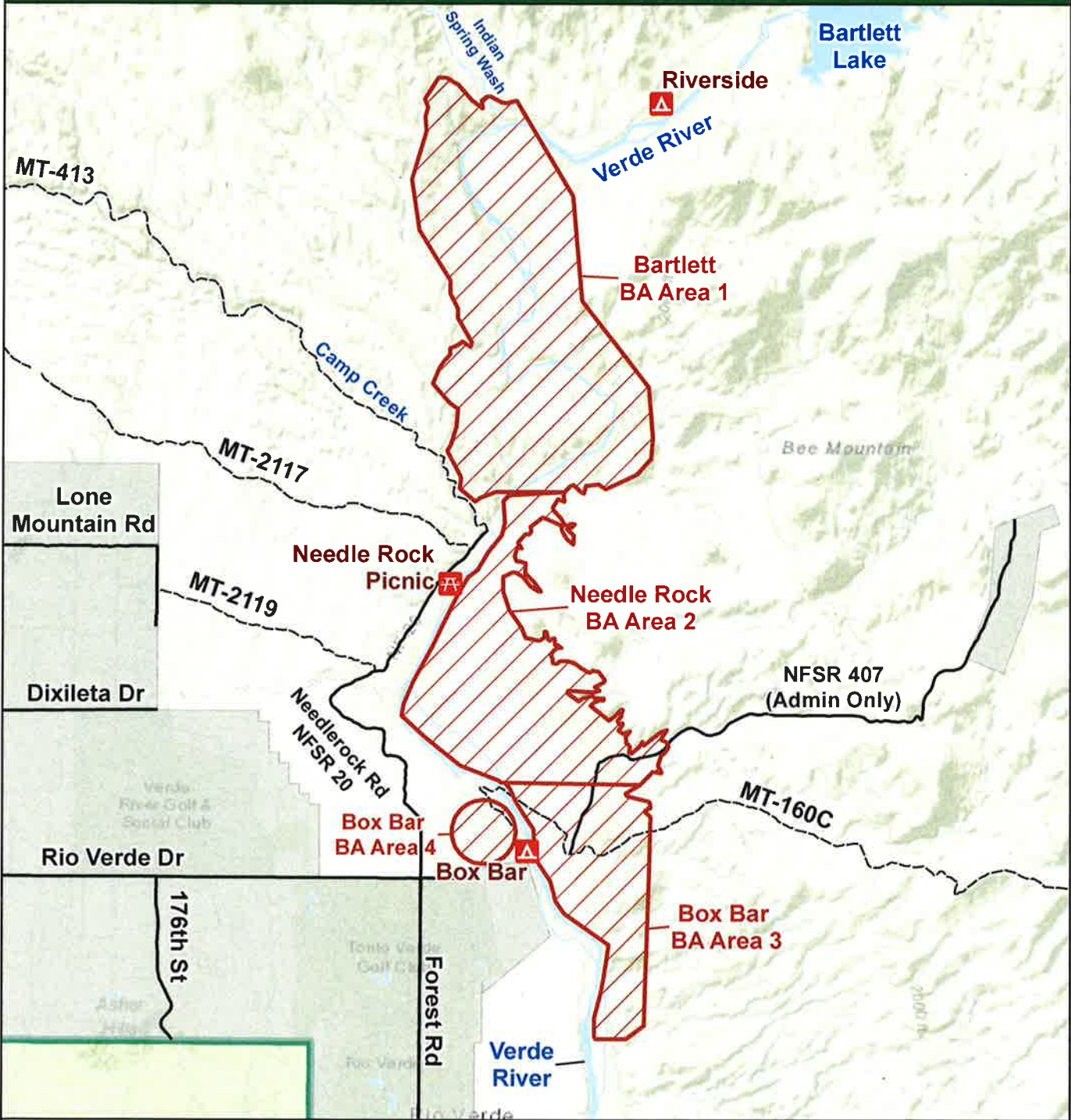
3. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both (*see* 16 U.S.C. § 551, 18 U.S.C. § 3571(b)(6), and 18 U.S.C. § 358(b)(7)).
4. Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at the Cave Creek Ranger District located in Scottsdale, AZ, telephone number 480-595-3300, and at the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office in Phoenix, AZ, telephone number 602-225-5200.
5. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this Order.

Done at Phoenix, Arizona this 1st day of December, 2021.

**NEIL BOSWORTH**

Digitally signed by NEIL  
BOSWORTH  
Date: 2021.12.01 12:53:42 -07'00'

**NEIL BOSWORTH**  
Forest Supervisor  
Tonto National Forest



**Bald Eagle Protection Closure (Seasonal) - Lower Verde River Exhibit A**

**Order #: 03-12-01-21-481**

Road, trail, and area closure affects only National Forest System roads, trails and lands within the closure area on Tonto National Forest. The closure does not apply to any non-National Forest System roads, trails or lands within the closure boundary.

- Campground or Camping
- Picnic Site or Day Use Area
- Road
- Motorized Trail
- Major Lakes and Rivers
- Restricted Area
- Non-Forest Service Ownership
- Tonto National Forest Boundary

