

**UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE
TONTO NATIONAL FOREST
PAYSON RANGER DISTRICT**

HIGHLINE FIRE PUBLIC SAFETY CLOSURE ORDER

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.51 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on the area, described in this order, and depicted on the attached map hereby incorporated as Attachment A (the "closure area"), all within the Payson and Pleasant Valley Ranger Districts of the Tonto National Forest, Arizona:

1. Going into or being upon the area described in the Order. 36 CFR 261.53 (e)
2. Being upon the road 36 CFR 261.54 (e)
3. Being upon the trail 36 CFR 261.55 (a)

EXEMPTIONS

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a US Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
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 engaged in a business, trade, or occupation in the area, who are authorized to be in the restricted area by the US Forest Service, the State of Arizona, or the County of Gila, its employees, agents, contractors and subcontractors.
4. Private landowners and community residents with properties impacted by the Highline Fire and associated Area Closure as identified below:
 - a. Landowners/residents of Washington Park, Rim Trail, Verde Glen, Bonita Creek Estates, La Cienega Ranch, Ellison Creek Estates, Ellison Creek Summer Homes, Long Ranch and Meads Ranch, Zane Grey Estates, and Tonto Creek Estates.

AREA DESCRIBED

National Forest System Road (NFSR) 198 from NFSR 199 to NFSR 64. NFSR 64 from the junction with NFSR 199 to NFSR 29. NFSR 29 from NFSR 64 to NFSR 289 and all National Forest System lands, roads and trails from the Mogollon Rim south to NFSR 64 "Control Road", and NFSR 29, and west of NFSR 289. Landowners and/or residents of the communities of Washington Park, Rim Trail, Verde Glen, Bonita Creek Estates, La Cienega Ranch, Ellison Creek Estates, Ellison Creek Summer Homes, Long Ranch and Meads

Ranch, Zane Grey Estates, and Tonto Creek Estates; will be allowed to travel NFSRs 1190, 1210, 430 and 289 for ingress and egress only (as depicted on the attached map (Attachment A) and hereby incorporated in this order.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the temporary Area Closure Order is to protect National Forest visitor health and safety by eliminating potential for members of the general public entering into the Highline Fire planning area while wildland fire suppression and emergency operations are taking place.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. USFS Law Enforcement Officers will assist in implementation of the Order and serve as liaisons with Gila County and Arizona Game and Fish. USFS is coordinating with Gila County regarding potential traffic restrictions and area road closures. This order becomes effective at 4:00 pm on June 12, 2017 until July 15, 2017 unless terminated sooner.
2. This Order will be effected by appropriate signs and closure notices as required by 36 CFR 261.50. Forest Service electronic signboards and folding signboards will indicate restrictions and/or closures as necessary along NFSRs 29, 32, and 64 and those ancillary roads contained within the Closure Area.
3. Violations of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. [16 USC 551, 18 USC 3571(b) (6), 18 USC 3581(b) (7)].

Dated this 12th day of June 2017, at Phoenix, Arizona



Neil Bosworth
Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest

