

Order Number: # 03-12-03-23-12



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

Shooting Pits Prescribed Burn Area Public Safety Closure

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 in the Mesa 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 upon 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.
3. Forest Service staff, cooperators, and other fire personnel involved directly with the Shooting Pits Prescribed Burn.

DESCRIBED AREA

The described area is within Township 1 South Range 11 East Sections 31, 32 and Township 2 South Range 11 East Section 6. It consists of all National Forest System lands, roads, and trails within the boundary starting at the intersection of National Forest System Road (NFSR) 357 and the National Forest boundary, then following North and Northeast along NFSR 357 approximately 0.75 miles to the intersection of NFSR 357 and Motorized Trail MT-1933, then following East and North along MT-1933 approximately 1 mile to the intersection of MT-1933 and NFSR 357, then following directly North 0.1 miles to reference point 33°17.838' N x -111°15.333' W at Queen Creek, then following West along Queen Creek for approximately 0.8 miles to the intersection of Queen Creek and

the National Forest boundary, then following South approximately 1.3 miles along the National Forest Boundary back to the starting point at the intersection of NFSR 357 and the National Forest boundary.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to protect the health and safety of the public, fire personnel and cooperators during prescribed burning operations in the Vicinity of Comet Mountain and the 357 road.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order shall be in effect from April 25th, 2023 at 5:00am through April 29th, 2023 at 5:00am, 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 Mesa Ranger District in Mesa, Az, (480) 610-3300, and Tonto National Forest Supervisors 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.

Signed and issued on April 21st, 2023

NEIL BOSWORTH
Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest