



**Forest Service**

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests

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# News Release

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## Arizona State Highways 261 and 273 to Big Lake Are Closed

**Springerville, AZ; December 29, 2015**— Arizona State Highways 261 and 273 are closed as of December 29, 2015. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), closed access to the Big Lake, Crescent Lake and Mexican Hay Lake areas via Highway 273 and 261, they will remain closed until spring. Forest Service roads 409, 112 and 87 are closed at the junctions that access Highway 273.

The closure date for Hwy. 261 and 273 is December 31, but with winter storms moving through the area, ADOT closed a few days early. "While Forest Service roads can provide alternative access to the high country, I would encourage folks to enjoy winter recreating opportunities with caution. The forest service does not remove snow from forest service roads during the winter, and they may be inaccessible," Dave Evans, Acting Springerville District Ranger stated. Forest Service roads remain open at this time but may be impassable, depending on weather and road conditions.

A reminder before hunting or recreating, please let someone know the route you are planning to take, the time you left and when you are expected to return. Weather conditions can change rapidly, prepare a survival kit including extra food and water. We want your visit to the forest to be a memorable and positive one!

Additional information can be found on ADOT's "Know Snow" Webpage at [www.azdot.gov/KnowSnow](http://www.azdot.gov/KnowSnow). Drivers are also encouraged to call 5-1-1 or log on to ADOT's Traveler Information Center at [www.az511.gov](http://www.az511.gov) for the latest highway conditions around the state.

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