

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
SANTA CATALINA RANGER DISTRICT

TEMPORARY AREA CLOSURE FOR THE PROTECTION OF DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a), the following acts are prohibited in the area described in this order and depicted on the attached map hereby incorporated into this order as Exhibit A, all within the Santa Catalina Ranger District, Coronado National Forest, Pima County, Arizona:

PROHIBITIONS:

1. Enter beyond 400 feet off of designated Forest Service trails in the restricted area from January 1 through April 30. **36 C.F.R. 261.53(a)**
2. Bring in, possess, or allow dogs, except seeing-eye dogs or handi-dogs, in the restricted area at any time during the year. **36 C.F.R. 261.58(s)**
3. Use a campsite or other areas in the restricted area by more than a maximum day use group-size of fifteen (15) individuals and a maximum overnight group-size of six (6) individuals at any time during the year. **36 C.F.R. 261.58(f)**

EXEMPTIONS:

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

1. Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically exempting them from the effects of this order.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

AREA DESCRIBED:

This order affects Occupancy and Use of the Bighorn Sheep Management Area within the Pusch Ridge Wilderness, described herein as encompassing:

1. 12S, R14E, all or portions of sections 1, 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35 and 36; T12S, R15E, all or portions of sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20; T11S, R14E all or portions of sections 25, 35 and 36; and T11S, R15 portions or sections of 31 and 32.
2. This management area is contained within the Pusch Ridge Wilderness and the Coronado National Forest and further described by the following boundaries:
 - a. The western portion of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness along the south boundary, to its intersections with the Ventana Canyon Trail #98; and west and north to the wilderness boundary intersection with the Sutherland Wash Trail #6.
 - b. The north and east boundary are along the Southerland Wash trail #6 to a point 8.0 miles from the trail's beginning in Catalina State Park, then south along the ridge line to a junction with the Romero Trail #8, then east on the Romero Trail 1.0 miles to its junction with the West Fork Trail, then south to the West fork Trail #24 junction with Cathedral

Rock Trail #26, then southwest on Cathedral Rock Trail to its junction with Esperero Trail #25, to its junction with Ventana Canyon Trail to its intersection with the Pusch Ridge Wilderness boundary.

- c. Boundary trails on the north and east sides of the management area are closed to dogs except as specified in Prohibition #2.
- d. National Forest system trails within the closure order area are Pima Canyon, Finger Rock, Pontatoc, Linda Vista, and Romero; these trails will remain open.

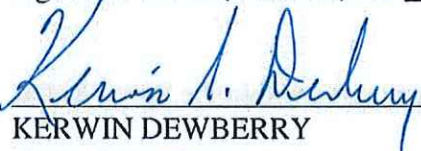
PURPOSE:

The temporary closure order restricts access to parts of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness identified as the Bighorn Sheep Management Area (see attached map) to protect Desert bighorn sheep habitat, reintroduction, and lambing by prohibiting dogs year-round in the Management Area – including the boundary trails that define the eastern and northern border, restricting use and occupancy in the Management Area to within 400 feet of National Forest System trails from January 1 until April 30 and limiting group size year-round within the Management Area.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- 1. This order will be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect until September 30, 2017, or until rescinded, whichever event occurs first.
- 2. This order supersedes, rescinds, and replaces any previous orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this order.
- 3. Any violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 for individuals and \$10,000.00 for organizations and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3571(b)(6), Title 18 USC 3581 (b)(7)].

Signed in Tucson, Arizona, this 14th day of January, 2016.



KERWIN DEWBERRY
Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest

Order Number 03-05-05-16-006 Santa Catalina Ranger District Coronado National Forest

