



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
GILA AND APACHE NATIONAL FORESTS
WILDERNESS RANGER DISTRICT
ORDER

PROHIBITIONS

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are **prohibited** within the area as described in this Order, and as depicted on the attached maps hereby incorporated into this Order as **Exhibit A** (the "restricted area"), within the Wilderness Ranger Districts Gila and Apache National Forests, Grant County, New Mexico.

1. Going into or being upon the restricted area between the hours of **8:00 PM and 6:00 AM. 36 CFR 261.53(e)**
2. Being on roads in the restricted area. **36CFR 261.54(e)**
3. Camping in the restricted area. **36CFR 261.58(e)**

EXEMPTIONS

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

1. Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State or Local Officer or member of an organized firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Residents, owners and lessees of land within the restricted area are allowed to enter only to the extent necessary to access their land.

RESTRICTED AREA

All National Forest System lands, roads and trails within the boundary of the Gila and Apache National Forests as depicted on **Exhibit A** and further identified as being within the boundaries to include, NFS Roads 613 and 613A.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to provide for the health and safety of the public in consideration of dangerous flooding and debris flow conditions that may be created by high flows on the Gila River. During the summer and fall of 2013, the Gila River reached record level flow rates resulting in extensive damage to recreation facilities and riparian habitat along portions of the Gila River adjacent to the Forks Campground. This flood damage resulted in loss of riparian habitat, hazardous flood damage to the riparian zone and limited access to the Gila River in the Forks Campground vicinity. The Gila River watershed and the area adjacent to the Forks Campground will continue to be a dynamic system for the foreseeable future with the probability of continued flooding events.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order supersedes, rescinds, and replaces any previous orders prohibiting the same acts covered by the Order.
2. This Order shall remain in effect until July 1, 2018 or until rescinded, whichever occurs first.
3. Violation of these prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, and 3571.

Done at Silver City, New Mexico, this 17th day of June, 2016.



ADAM MENDONCA
Forest Supervisor
Gila National Forest