



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

**EAST VERDE RIVER DAY USE SITES, AND SEGMENTS OF EAST VERDE RIVER AND
ELLISON CREEK 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 Ranger District of the Tonto National Forest, Arizona:

1. Going into or being upon the area described in the Order. 36 CFR 261.53 (e)

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.

AREA DESCRIBED

All National Forest System (NFS) lands interior to those East Verde River Day Use Sites known as *First Crossing, Water Wheel, Second Crossing, Third Crossing, and Cold Springs Trailhead*, as well as those NFS lands immediately adjacent to each East Verde River Day Use Site within a 500 foot corridor either side of the wetted edge of the East Verde River and Ellison Creek:

- *For the East Verde River corridor area:* beginning at the southern private property line of the Whispering Pines private subdivision extending south to the northern private property line of the Beaver Valley private subdivision.

- *For the Ellison Creek corridor area:* beginning at the western private property line of the Cold Springs Ranch private property extending west to the confluence of Ellison Creek with the East Verde River (e.g. Cold Springs area); as depicted on the attached map and hereby incorporated in this order (Attachment A).

PURPOSE

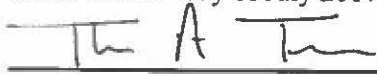
The purpose of the temporary Area Closure Order is to protect National Forest visitor health and safety by eliminating potential for members of the general public entering into those areas along the East Verde River while incident investigation and area safety assessment operations are taking place.

The intent of the Subpart B Order is to temporarily restrict the occupancy and use of the East Verde River Day Use Sites and the identified segments of both the East Verde River and Ellison Creek riparian corridors by members of the general public while the incident investigation and area safety assessment 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 any necessary traffic restrictions and area road closures. This order becomes effective at 12:00 pm (noon) on July 21, 2017 until August 31, 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 East Verde River Day Use Site information signboards and folding signboards located at the intersection of FSR199 and each Day Use Site access road and the FSR199/FSR420 intersection will indicate restrictions and/or closures as necessary.
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 21st day of July 2017, at Phoenix, Arizona



for Neil Bosworth
Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest

East Verde River Day Use Sites Occupancy and Use Restricted Areas Map

Order 12-17-309

Attachment A

Those Day Use Sites and Nearby National Forest System Lands known as First Crossing, Water Wheel, Second Crossing, Third Crossing, and Cold Springs Trailhead located in: Sections 24, 25, 35, and 36, T. 11.5 N., R. 10 E., G&SRM, Gila County, Arizona

