

United States Forest Service
Tonto National Forest

BALD EAGLE PROTECTION CLOSURE (SEASONAL)
Mesa Ranger District

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts and omissions are prohibited on the areas, roads and trails as described in this Order, and as depicted on the attached map hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A, within Tonto National Forest, Maricopa County, Arizona:

PROHIBITIONS

1. Going into or being upon the area, between the dates of December 1 and June 30 on each year. 36 CFR 261.53(a)

EXEMPTIONS

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

1. Persons with a 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, i.e. any person employed by the Maricopa Audubon Society, or the Arizona Bald Eagle Nest Watch Program, including contractors and volunteers, while engaged in their official duties.

AREA DESCRIBED

All National Forest System lands, roads and trails within the boundaries as depicted in Exhibit A, and more particularly described as follows:

AREA 1. That portion of Section 34 and 35, Township 3 North, Range 7 East, north of the Lower Salt River, in the vicinity of Goldfield Recreation site and the area commonly referred as "Mud Cliffs"; between the unnamed drainage located in the center of Section 34 on the west; as shown on the attached map.

AREA 2. That area known as Bulldog Cliffs, southwest of Saguaro Lake and south of the Lower Salt River, beginning in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section of 34, Township 3 North, Range 8 East; including portions of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 3, Township 2 North, Range 8 East, most of Section 4, Township 2 North, Range 8 East, and portions of East $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 5, Township 2 North, Range 8 East; as shown on the attached map.

PURPOSE

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To provide protection from disturbance caused by human activity in a high-intensity recreation area, for Bald Eagle nesting, incubation, nestlings, and fledgling during the critical reproductive period.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Prohibitions contained in this Order become effective immediately upon execution of the Order and will remain in effect for three (3) years from the date of execution, unless terminated sooner. In by March 31 of any year, the breeding pair is not occupying the breeding area (BA) or the specific nest this closure protects, or the pair in an occupied BA does not lay eggs in a nest within the closure, then the closure can be lifted and the area open to the public.
2. These restrictions are in addition to the general prohibitions found at 36 CFR 261, Subpart A.
3. Violation 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 3559, 3571 and 3581].
4. This Order supersedes, rescinds, and replaces Order 12-09-237, and any other previous order prohibiting the same acts covered by this Order.

Done this 20th day of January, 2012, at Phoenix, Arizona.



GENE BLANKENBAKER
Forest Supervisor