



File Code: 1010; 2300

Date: January 25, 2017

Route To:

Subject: Dispersed Camping Restrictions- Prescott Basin

To: File

This letter to the file documents my support of continuing dispersed camping restrictions in the Prescott Basin. These restrictions have been enforced since May 14, 2001.

The purpose and need to re-issue these restrictions is to replace Order No. 09-218, which expires December 31, 2016.

The original purpose and need for the restrictions on dispersed camping in the Prescott Basin was to:

- provide dispersed camping in a more managed setting given high demand and urban interface within the basin
- reduce the risk of wildfire
- make campsites more available for weekend visitors
- reduce resource damage

Prescott National Forest Land and Resource management Plan, June 2015, page 112, states “Dispersed camping within the Prescott Basin Management Area should be limited to designated dispersed camping sites and should not exceed a total of 7 days within a 30-day consecutive period. This continues the direction first established in a 1999 Environmental Assessment (*Environmental Assessment, Prescott Basin Phase II Recreation Project*), that addressed the impacts of unrestricted dispersed camping in the Prescott Basin and described alternatives to remediate the negative impacts from these actions.

I find that there is still a need to restrict dispersed camping in the Prescott Basin and these actions qualify under provisions of FSH 1909.15, 40.doc “Orders issued pursuant to 36CFR Part 261, Sec. 261.50 (a) & (b)”.

This Order would prohibit the following acts on the areas described in the *Environmental Assessment, Prescott Basin Phase II Recreation Project* and shown on the map - Exhibit A.

- Camping in areas that are not designated dispersed camp sites. Camping is allowed only at designated sites, 36 CFR 261.58 (e).
- Camping for more than 7 days within a 30 day period, 36 CFR 261.58 (a),
- Campfires outside of designated camp sites, 36 CFR 261.52 (a).



This Order shall be in effect until rescinded on/or until Dec. 31, 2026, whichever comes first.

A Civil Rights Impact Analysis (Attachment A) was prepared for this Order, documenting that there would be no net Civil Rights Impacts due to re-issuing the restrictions.



TERESA A. CHASE

Forest Supervisor

Attachments: Exhibit A – Location Map, Attachment A- Civil Rights Impact Analysis, Attachment B– Enforcement Plan, Attachment C- Assessment of Need, Order No. 09-233

**ORDER
USDA – FOREST SERVICE
PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST
DISPERSED CAMPING RESTRICTIONS**

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50 (a) & (b) the following acts are prohibited in the restricted areas as described in this Order on National Forest System lands administered by the Prescott National Forest, Yavapai County, Arizona, and as depicted on the attached map, hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A.

PROHIBITIONS:

1. Camping, except within designated sites as listed below. **36 CFR 261.58(e)**
2. Camping for more than 7 days within a 30 day period. **36 CFR 261.58(a)**
3. Building, maintaining, attending or using a campfire, except within a designated camp site as listed below. **36 CFR 261.52(a)**

EXEMPTIONS:

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 rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

AREA DESCRIPTION:

This order affects areas within the Prescott National Forest, Bradshaw Ranger District, Prescott Basin. The Prescott Basin is immediately south and west of Prescott, Arizona. See map, Exhibit A.

The locations of the designated dispersed camping areas (each identified by a numbered post) are as follows:

Enchanted Forest Trail/ FDR 23

From the intersection of Hwy 69 and Walker Rd. proceed south along Walker Rd for 4 miles to the intersection of FDR 23, Enchanted Forest Trail. Proceed northeast along FDR 23. There are 11 designated dispersed campsites along FDR 23 within the first 1 ½ mile.

Bannie Mine Road/FDR 30

From the intersection of Hwy 69 and Walker Rd. proceed south along Walker Rd for 4.3 miles to the intersection of FDR 30, Bannie Mine Rd. Proceed northeast along FDR 30. There are 13 designated dispersed campsites along FDR 23 within the first 2 miles.

Senator Highway/ C56

From downtown Prescott, travel east on Gurley St. to the intersection with Mt. Vernon St. Proceed south along Mt. Vernon St. (Mt. Vernon St. changes into Senator Hwy (C 56) after ½ miles south) for about 8 1/2 miles to the first designated dispersed campsite. There are 7 designated dispersed campsites along C 56 within 3/4 mile from the first campsite.

Tritle Mountain Road/FDR 79

From downtown Prescott, travel east on Gurley St. to the intersection with Mt. Vernon St. Proceed south along Mt. Vernon St. (Mt. Vernon St. changes into Senator Hwy after ½ miles south) for about 7.4 miles to the intersection with FDR 79, Proceed southwest on FDR 79. There are 16 designated dispersed campsites along FDR 79 within the first 2 ½ miles.

Sundance Road/FDR 80

From downtown Prescott, travel east on Gurley St. to the intersection with Mt. Vernon St. Proceed south along Mt. Vernon St. (Mt. Vernon St. changes into Senator Hwy after ½ miles south) for about 8 miles to the intersection with FDR 80. Proceed southwest on FDR 80. There are 6 designated dispersed campsites along FDR 80 within the first 3/4 mile.

Pipeline Road/FDR7 707

From downtown Prescott, travel east on Gurley St. to the intersection with Mt. Vernon St. Proceed south along Mt. Vernon St. (Mt. Vernon St. changes into Senator Hwy after ½ miles south) for about 7.1 miles to the intersection with C 101. Proceed west on C 101 (Wolf Creek Rd.) for about ¼ mile to FDR 707. Proceed northwest on FDR 707. There are 5 designated dispersed campsites along FDR 707 within the first 3/4 mile.

Wolf Creek Road/C 101

From downtown Prescott, travel east on Gurley St. to the intersection with Mt. Vernon St. Proceed south along Mt. Vernon St. (Mt. Vernon St. changes into Senator Hwy after ½ miles south) for about 7.1 miles to the intersection with C 101. Proceed west on C 101 (Wolf Creek Rd.). There are 12 designated dispersed campsites along C 101 within the first 3 miles.

Marapai Road/FDR 64

From downtown Prescott, travel south on Montezuma St (White Spar Hwy 89) for 3.6 miles to the intersection of S. Ponderosa Park Rd. Proceed south on S. Ponderosa Park Rd for .7 mile to the intersection of FDR 64 (Marapai Rd.). Proceed east on FDR 64. There are 7 designated dispersed campsites along FDR 64 within the first 1/4 mile.

Copper Basin Road/C 64

From downtown Prescott, travel south on Montezuma St (White Spar Hwy 89) for 1 mile to the intersection of Copper Basin Rd. (C 64). Proceed west on Copper Basin Rd. for 3.1 miles to the first designated dispersed campsite. Another campsite is close to #1. Proceed on C 64 for another 3 miles to get to the 5 other camp areas. There are 7 designated dispersed campsites along C 54.

Thumb Butte Loop/FDR 373

From downtown Prescott, travel west on Gurley St. for 3.5 miles. The road is now FDR 373. Stay on FDR 373 for about 3 miles. Along FDR 373 there are 21 designated dispersed campsites.

Potts Creek Road/FDR 51

From downtown Prescott, travel west on Gurley St. for 3.5 miles. The road is now FDR 373. Stay on FDR 373 and proceed for 1.6 miles to the intersection of FDR 51 (Potts Creek Rd.). There are 4 designated dispersed campsites along FDR 51 within the first 1/4 mile.

PURPOSE:

This order is necessary for public safety and for the protection of natural resources.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. This order will be in effect when signed and will remain in effect until December 31, 2026 or until rescinded, whichever event occurs first.
2. This order rescinds, replaces and supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this Order in that area addressed by Exhibit A.

Done at Prescott, Arizona this 31 day of January 2017.

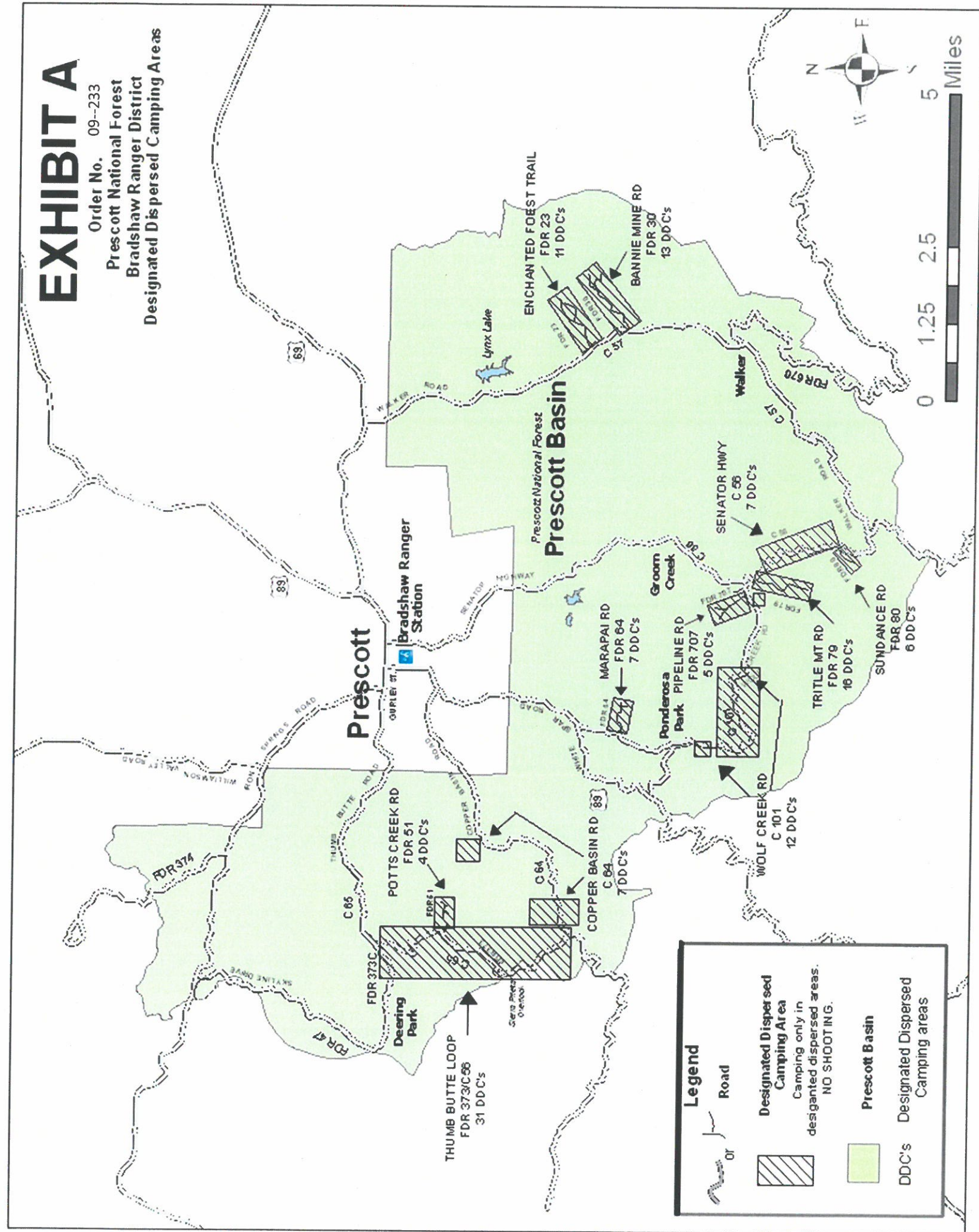


TERESA A. CHASE
Forest Supervisor
Prescott National Forest

Violation of the Order is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 for individuals and \$10,000.00 for organizations or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. [Title 16 USC Section 551]

EXHIBIT A

Order No. 09--233
 Prescott National Forest
 Bradshaw Ranger District
 Designated Dispersed Camping Areas



ATTACHMENT A
CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACTS ANALYSIS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
Southwestern Region
CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACT ANALYSIS
Dispersed Camping Restrictions in the Prescott Basin
Prescott National Forest
Yavapai County, Arizona

Purpose

The purpose for developing a civil rights impact analysis is to provide the Forest Service decision maker information concerning potential civil rights impacts of the proposed order. Civil rights impacts are those which could affect the agency's ability to ensure equal opportunity in employment and in delivery of programs and services.

Favorable Impacts

The Order would:

- ❖ Reduce resource impacts, such as soil compaction or lack of vegetation, by restricting dispersed camping in the Prescott Basin to designated sites.
- ❖ Designating dispersed campsites allows forest personnel to focus their efforts and reduces the risk of wildfire by limiting this activity to the designated locations.
- ❖ Increase public safety and reduce resource damage near subdivisions and high use recreation areas.
- ❖ Increase the availability of designated dispersed camping areas.

Unfavorable Impacts

The Order would:

- ❖ Limit dispersed camping to designated dispersed camping areas in the Prescott Basin.
- ❖ Reduce opportunities for building campfires in the Prescott Basin, as campfires would be limited to designated dispersed and developed recreation sites.

Mitigation Measures

Forest areas outside the Prescott Basin are generally open to dispersed camping and building fires.

Social Impacts

This Order does not impose any unreasonable adverse impacts on the civil rights of any individuals. The overall benefits are reasonable, as compared to the unfavorable impacts.

Net Civil Rights Impact

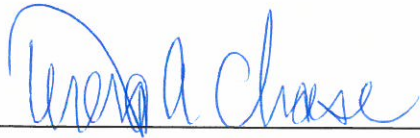
No net Civil Rights Impacts, due to implementation of mitigation measures.



Civil Rights Action Groups/ Prescott National Forest



Date



TERESA CHASE

Forest Supervisor



Date

**ATTACHMENT B
ENFORCEMENT PLAN**

Dispersed Camping Restrictions in the Prescott Basin

Bradshaw Ranger District

Forest Service law enforcement officers (LEO), as well as District Forest Protection Officers (FPO), will enforce the dispersed camping restrictions in the Prescott Basin as described in the 1999 *Environmental Assessment, Prescott Basin Phase II Recreation Project* and Decision Notice and supported in the 2015 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Prescott National Forest.

Designated dispersed camping areas are posted to reasonably notify the public using the areas. Signs are maintained on a regular basis. A brochure (*Designated Dispersed Camping in the Prescott Basin*) describes the rules and regulations and the locations of the designated camping areas. This brochure is available for free at all Ranger District offices on the Prescott National Forest and dispersed camping in the Prescott Basin information is available on the Prescott National Forest website (on the web at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/>)

Copies of the Restriction Order will be available at the Bradshaw Ranger District and the Prescott National Forest website (web address shown above).

Forest Service Law Enforcement patrols, made up of LEO's and FPO's will be utilized on busy weekends to enhance presence, education and enforcement.

Forest Service Law Enforcement will coordinate with Arizona game and Fish and the Prescott County Sheriff's department to gain their support and cooperation with enforcement efforts.

ATTACHMENT C

Assessment of Need for
Dispersed Camping Restrictions in the Prescott Basin
Bradshaw Ranger District

Prepared by: Susan Johnson, West Zone Recreation Program Manager
January 25, 2016

As described in the 1999 *Environmental Assessment, Prescott Basin II Recreation Project* and Decision Notice, and supported in the 2015 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Prescott National Forest, the following actions are expected to limit damage to natural resources from accelerated erosion, loss of vegetation, displaced wildlife, increased fire risk, accumulation of trash and human waste. These actions enhance the forest visitor's experience, health and safety by limiting camping to designated locations, enhancing turn-over of campsites, and limiting camping near subdivisions and high use recreation areas. Management direction based on the above assessment and decision includes:

- Dispersed camping. Allow only in designated dispersed camp sites within the Prescott Basin. Camp areas are signed with posts. Brochures on designated dispersed camping are available at every Prescott National Forest Ranger District office and on the web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/prescott/>
- Limit camping at designated dispersed camping sites/areas to 7 days within a 30 day period.
- Limit campfires within Prescott Basin to designated dispersed and developed camp sites.

The dispersed camping and campfire restrictions are covered under Categories Established by the Chief, Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR Part 261 – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection.