

**ORDER
USDA – FOREST SERVICE
PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST
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 for more than 14 days within a 30 day period. **36 CFR 261.58(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, see map, Exhibit A.

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 This order will be in effect when signed and will remain in effect until December 31, 2025 or until rescinded, whichever event occurs first.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 _14_ day of September, 2015.

_____

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]

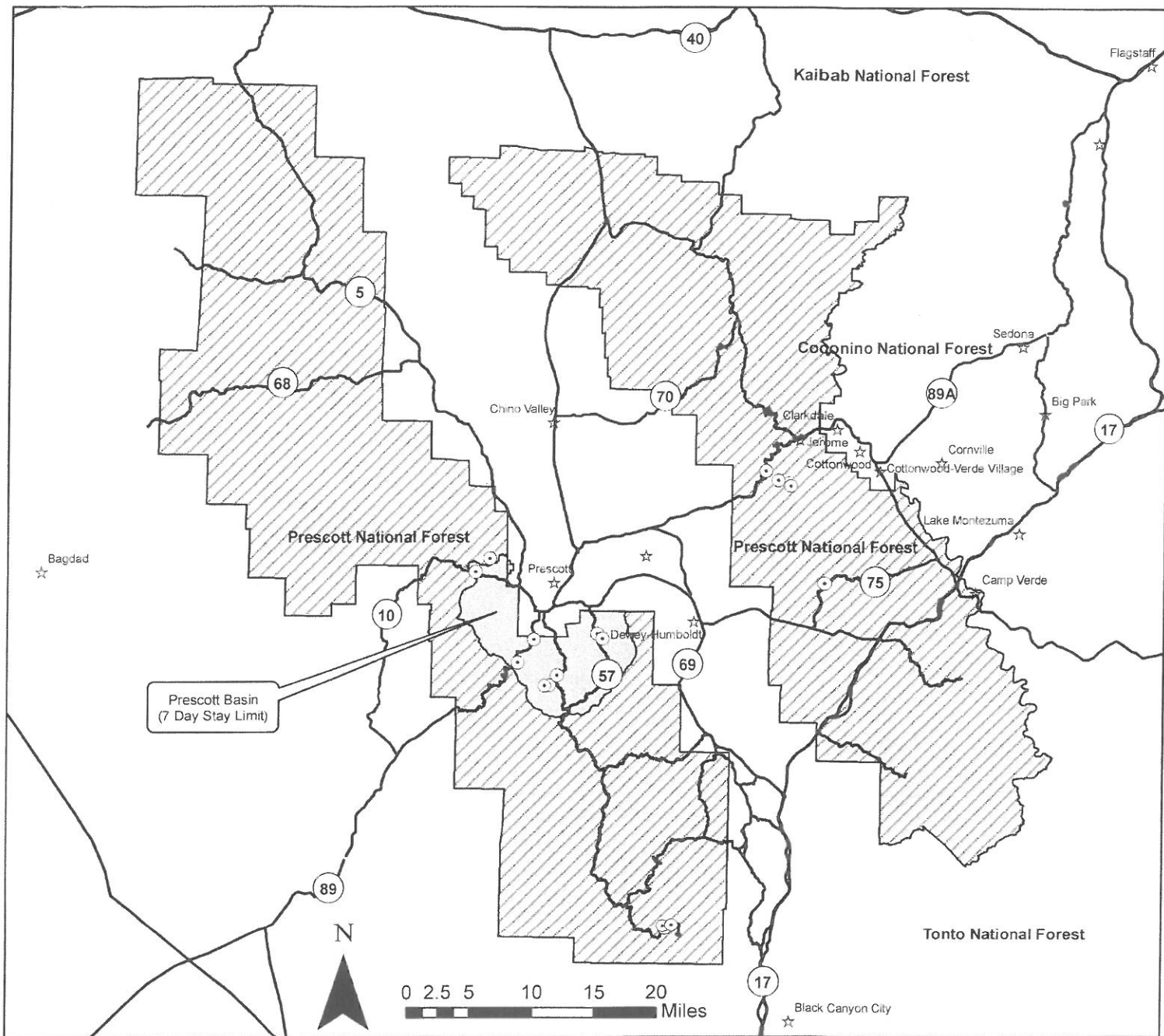




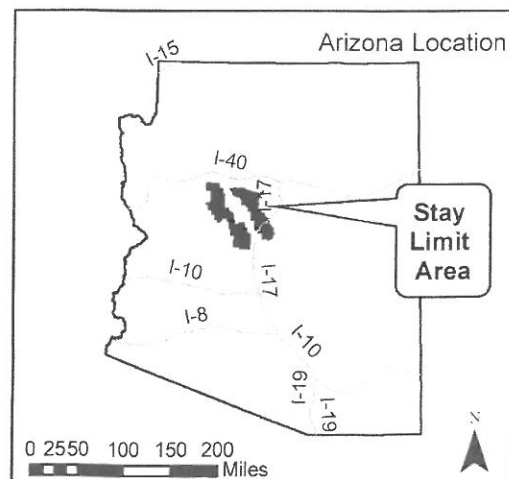


Exhibit A, Order # 09-225
Prescott National Forest
Stay Limit Restriction

Legend

-  14 out of 30 Consecutive Day Stay Limit
-  Major Road
-  Developed Campground (14 day stay limit)
-  Town



File Code: 1010, 2300

Date: September 14, 2015

Route To:

Subject: Stay Limit Restriction

To:

This letter to the file documents my support of continuing a stay limit on the Prescott National Forest. Additionally, I support establishing a simplified stay limit of 14 days within a 30 day period for all developed/designated dispersed campsites on the Prescott National Forest with the exception of those that are currently covered in Order No. 09-218 (designated dispersed within the Prescott Basin). The stay limit in that order is 7 days within a 30 day period.

Forest Law Enforcement Officers had identified replacement of Closure Order 09-137 as "critical". Order 09-137 established a complex series of forest camping and developed recreation campground stay limits for all developed/designated dispersed campsites on the Prescott National Forest. Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, June 2015, page 83, states "In areas outside of the Prescott Basin Management Area, camping by each individual or group should not exceed a period of 14 days in a 30 consecutive day period within the Prescott NF, unless specifically designated otherwise." The 1987 Prescott National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, page 26 stated "Prohibit all camping for a period in excess of 14 days within a 30 consecutive day period within the national forest." The purpose and need to establish a stay limit is to enact management direction in the Forest Plan and to replace Order No. 09-137, which was rescinded in earlier this year.

The original purpose and need for the restrictions on camping on the Prescott National Forest was to:

- provide recreational opportunities for the greatest number of visitors to the Prescott National Forest
- distinguish between recreational and residential use

This action qualifies 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 act on the Prescott National Forest, see map titled Exhibit A.

- Camping for more than 14 days within a 30 day period, 36 CFR 261.58 (a),

This Order shall be in effect until rescinded on/or until Dec. 31, 2025, 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: Attachment A- Civil Rights Impact Analysis, Attachment B- Enforcement Plan, Attachment C- Assessment of Need, Order No. 09-225, and Exhibit A - Location Map.

ATTACHMENT A
CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACTS ANALYSIS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
Southwestern Region
CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACT ANALYSIS
Camping Restrictions on the Prescott National Forest
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:

- ❖ Increase the availability of camping areas for recreation visitors.

Unfavorable Impacts

The Order would:

- ❖ Prohibit extended stays on the Prescott National Forest.

Mitigation Measures

Private campgrounds, state lands, and bordering national forests, providing a variety of opportunities for visitors camping for an extended period of time.

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.

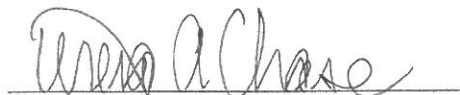
Net Civil Rights Impact

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

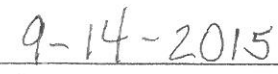


Civil Rights Action Group/ Prescott National Forest


Date



TERESA A. CHASE
Forest Supervisor


Date

**ATTACHMENT B
ENFORCEMENT PLAN**

Camping Restrictions on the Prescott National Forest

Forest Service law enforcement officers (LEO), as well as District Forest Protection Officers (FPO), will enforce the camping restrictions on the Prescott National Forest.

Camping restrictions are posted to reasonably notify the public using the National Forest. Signs are maintained on a regular basis. Information on camping restrictions is posted 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 Chino Valley Ranger District, Bradshaw Ranger District, Verde 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
Camping Restrictions on the Prescott National Forest
Prepared by: Susan Johnson, West Zone Recreation Program Manager
April 30, 2015

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 from extended stays in general forest areas. These actions enhance the forest visitor's experience, health and safety by enhancing turn-over of campsites, particularly in high use recreation areas. Management direction based on the above assessment and decision includes:

- Limit camping to 14 days within a 30 day period.
- Limit campfires within developed camp sites.

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