

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

KNOLL FIRE 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 Exhibit A (the “closure area”), all within the Payson and Pleasant Valley Ranger Districts of the Tonto National Forest, Arizona;

1. Going into or being upon an area described in the Order, 36 CFR 261.53(e)
2. Being upon the road 36 CFR 261.54(e)
3. Being upon the trail 36 CFR 261.55(a)

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.
4. Private landowners and community residents with properties impacted by the Knoll fire and associated Area Closure as identified below:
 - a. Landowners/residents of Meads Ranch and Long Ranch, Ellison Creek Estates, La Cienega Ranch, and Zane Grey Estates,

AREA DESCRIBED

All lands and roads: contained within the following boundary. Starting at NFSR 430, east along the Highline Trail to the junction of NFSR 289, south along NFSR 289 to the junction of NFSR 29, west along NFSR 29 to the junction of NFSR 64, west along NFSR 64 to the junction of NFSR 430, north along NFSR 430 to the junction of the Highline Trail. NFSR 430 is closed from NFSR 64 to the Highline Trail, NFSR 64 is closed from NFSR 29 junction to NFSR 430 junction, NFSR 29 is closed from NFSR 289 to the junction of NFSR 64, NFSR 289 is closed from the Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery to the junction of NFSR 29, and the Highline Trail is closed from the junction of NFSR 430 east to the Junction of NFSR 289.

Landowners and/or residents of the communities of Meads Ranch and Long Ranch, Ellison Creek Estates, La Cienega Ranch, Zane Grey Estates, and The Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery; will be allowed to travel NFSRs 289, 29, 64 and 430 for ingress and egress only as depicted on the attached map (Attachment A) and hereby incorporated in this order.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the temporary Area Closure Order is to protect National Forest visitor health and safety and firefighter health and safety, by eliminating potential for members of the general public entering into the Knoll Fire planning area while wildland fire suppression and emergency 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 potential traffic restrictions and the area road closures. This Order becomes effective at 8:00 am on March 31, 2018 until April 30, 2018 unless terminated sooner.
2. This Order will be effected by appropriate signs and closure notices as required by 36 CFR 261.50. Forest Service electronic signboards and folding signboards will indicate restrictions and/or closures as necessary along NFSRs 64, 289, 430, and 29 and those ancillary roads contained within the Closure Area.
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), 18 USC 35819(b) (7)].

Dated this 30th day of March 2018, at Phoenix, Arizona



Neil Bosworth
Forest Supervisor
Tonto National Forest