

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 described in this Order, and as depicted on the attached map hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (“restricted area”), within the Tonto National Forest, Maricopa County, Arizona:

PROHIBITIONS

1. Going into or being upon the restricted area between the dates of December 1 and June 30 of each year that this order is in effect. 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 the following business, trade, or occupation in the area: 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 Sections 34 and 35, Township 3 North, Range 7 East, north of the Lower Salt River, in the vicinity of the Goldfield-Kerr Fire Station and the area commonly referred to as “Mud Cliffs”; between the unnamed drainage located in the center of Section 35 on the east, and the unnamed drainage 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 34, Township 3 North, Range 8 East; and 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 the East $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 5, Township 2 North, Range 8 East; as shown on the attached map.

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PURPOSE

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

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Prohibitions contained in this Order become effective upon execution and will remain in effect through June 30, 2011, unless terminated sooner.
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 No. 12-40-4R, and any other previous orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this Order.

Done this 30th day of March, 2009, at Phoenix, Arizona.

/s/ Gene Blankenbaker

GENE BLANKENBAKER
Forest Supervisor