

FORT APACHE FIRE CLOSURE EXECUTIVE ORDER

Executive Order No. 05201801

Closing the Fort Apache Indian Reservation; Exception for Recreational, Fishing and Camping Sites

The office of the Executive hereby implements the following restrictions, pursuant to authority vested in the Chairwoman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe by Section 5.3 (B) of the Government Code. Resolution No. 05-2012-25 recognizes the Chairwoman's duty to manage the Tribe's day-to-day operations, and the Constitution empowers the Chairwoman, pursuant to authority vested in the Tribal Council, to represent the Tribe in a government-to-government capacity and act in all matters concerning the welfare of the Tribe.

The Chairwoman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe ("Tribe"), by signing this Executive Order, hereby imposes restrictions on public travel to and within specified areas of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation ("Reservation"). The reason for imposing this Executive Order is that a threat currently exists to the Tribe's natural resources, timber, wildlife, economic resources, security, health, welfare, and public safety. It is the intent of this Executive Order to reduce the likelihood of human-caused ignition of wildfires in the area depicted on the attached map.

All popular recreational lakes and campsites located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation shall remain open to the public throughout the summer, subject to the existing Stage 2 Fire Restrictions. All back-country sites on the Reservation will be closed until further notice with an exception for Law Enforcement and Game & Fish Rangers. This Executive Order will be strictly enforced due to the unexpected dry weather that has created conditions conducive to accidental or lightning-ignited fires.

I. RESTRICTED AREAS

Restricted area includes the areas within the following boundary:

- East by the Fort Apache Indian Reservation Boundary;
- South by the Black River;
- West by Whiteriver, State Route 73, Road B65 (Lester Oliver's to Forest Dale), North along US Route 60;
- North by the Fort Apache Indian Reservation Boundary;
- Traffic will not be allowed on R55 beyond the junction of R55 and Y31 (East Fork Road and Bus Turn around); this amendment is due to the damage of locks at the current location and the Tribe has will not accept liability if damage occurs to the guardrail.
- Traffic will not be allowed on Y70 beyond Seven Mile Hill.
- Black River: Black River Crossing to Rattlesnake Point

II. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTED AREAS

There have been increased concerns from District One Council Members on the heavy traffic and increased potential for fire activity on west side of the Cibecue community. This has prompted the need for additional closures.

The additional RESTRICTED area includes the areas within the following boundary:

- West by the Fort Apache Indian Reservation Boundary;
- North by the Fort Apache Indian Reservation Boundary;
- South by the Salt River/West from the 1st Campground;
- East by U.S. Highway 60 from the Northern Reservation Boundary South to the BIA Route 12 Junction;
- The North side of BIA Route 12 will be closed from the U.S 60 Junction to the town of Cibecue.

The following recreational lakes and camp site areas shall remain CLOSED:

- Reservation Lake
- Drift Fence Lake
- Pacheta Lake
- Black River
- Tonto Lake
- Christmas Tree Lake
- Hurricane Lake
- Bonito Prairie Stock Tank
- The Black River North: Black River Crossing to Rattlesnake Point

Roads within this area, including the R55 Road are closed to the local public. Such roads shall remain open for fire-fighting professionals and individuals on official business, such as relevant Tribal Programs and personnel, Timber harvesting and hauling activities (equipped with fire mitigation measures), WMAT licensed Game & Fish Bear & Lion Outfitters (equipped with fire mitigation measures), and Livestock Associations.

The following additional recreational areas and camp sites areas shall remain CLOSED:

- Cibecue Falls
- Salt River 2nd and 3rd campgrounds
- Oak Creek
- Iron Mine
- Red Man Cave
- Gleason Flat

III. UNRESTRICTED AREAS

The following recreational lakes and camp site areas shall remain OPEN:

- Sunrise Lake
- A-1 Lake
- Bog Tank
- Horseshoe Lake
- Big Bear Lake
- Little Bear Lake
- Hawley Lake
- Earl Park Lake
- Cyclone Lake
- Ditch Camp
- Paradise Creek
- Lower Log Campsites
- Upper Log Campsites
- Cooley Lake
- Salt River
- East Fork of the White River
- Black River South: Amos Wash to the Salt River
- Salt River Canyon 1st Campground
- Apache Falls above Salt River Bridge
- Campsites from the town of Cibecue to White Spring

Note: Any lake or site not listed above shall be deemed closed.

Roads that are used as boundaries of this area will remain open to public traffic.

III. FIRE RESTRICTION

All woodcutting is prohibited until further notice with an exception made for the following areas for ceremonial purposes and wakes only:

- East of Cibecue Creek; South of BIA Route 12 (Cibecue Creek to Cibecue Junction), US Route 60 (Cibecue Junction to Carrizo Junction) and State Route 73 to Fort Apache; west of White River to the confluence of the White and Black River.
- West of U.S Highway 60 to Cibecue Creek from the BIA Route 12 Junction South to the Rim of Salt River Canyon will be open for firewood cutting for wakes and ceremonial purposes only.


Anyone interested in cutting wood for allowable ceremonies and wakes must obtain a firewood permit (no fee) to harvest firewood in the designated area noted above. They must also have hand tools (shovels, rakes, and McClouds) to extinguish any fires that may start. Also, a permit (no fee) is required to harvest other forest products and the poles used in a Sunrise Dance ceremony. The permit will be your pass to and from firewood gathering area and the closed forest. Permits may be picked up at the Fort Apache Agency, Branch of Forestry Office.

IV. PENALTIES AND FINES

This Order shall become effective immediately, beginning Wednesday, May 23, 2018. This policy shall remain effective until conditions improve at which time an announcement will be issued by the Tribe to lift the restrictions imposed herein. Anyone that violates this Order shall be subject to fines and penalties up to \$2,000.00 and may be subject to imprisonment, where applicable, damages, and federal prosecution if unlawful actions lead to loss of life or natural resources.

V. ENFORCEMENT

The Tribal Forestry Department and Fire and Rescue, in conjunction with BIA Fire Management, Tribal Forest Ranger, and Game and Fish and Tribal Police shall inform the public of any supplemental restrictions and are responsible for monitoring and enforcing full compliance with the policy as stated herein. This Order is to be distributed to all Tribal programs, departments, enterprises, and Federal, local, and State agencies, as well as to members of the news media. Furthermore, all Tribal Agency and Enterprise Supervisors shall cooperate fully and provide any assistance necessary to help carry out the terms and conditions specified in this Executive Order.



Gwendena Lee-Gatewood, Chairwoman
White Mountain Apache Tribe

Issued this 19th day of June, 2018