



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS
SPRINGVILLE RANGER DISTRICT
(For Public Safety)**

PROHIBITIONS:

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a), the following acts are prohibited within the area described in this Order (“The Big Lake Recreation Area”), and as depicted on the attached Map, hereby incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A, all within the boundaries of the Springerville Ranger District of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Apache County, Arizona(AZ):

1. Possessing or storing any food or refuse, except in the manner specified in this Order. **36 C.F.R. § 261.58 (cc).**

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a written Forest Service authorization specifically exempting them from the effect of this Order.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

SPECIFICATIONS:

UNDER THIS ORDER IT IS REQUIRED THAT:

- A. All food and refuse must be acceptably stored during nighttime hours or attended by at least one adult person physically present within 100 feet of the items. These items include any human, pet, livestock food (except baled or cubed hay without additives), and garbage.
- B. All toiletries (shampoo, lotion, etc.) must be acceptably stored during nighttime hours or attended by at least one adult person physically present within 100 feet of the items.
- C. All food residue must be cleaned or burned off grills and disposed in bear-resistant garbage receptacles.
- D. No Food or refuse may be present or consumed in sleeping areas unless sleeping area is within an enclosed recreational vehicle or rigid-walled camping trailer.

- E. No food or refuse may be fed to birds, squirrels, or other wildlife within the boundaries of the Big Lake Recreation Area.

RESTRICTED AREA:

The Big Lake Recreation Area includes all National Forest System Lands, roads, and trails within the boundary starting at the intersection Highway 273 and Highway 261 (located in the southwestern quarter section of Township 6 North and Range 28 East, Section 17), then following Highway 273 in a southerly direction for approximately 2.5 miles to (where the paved road ends and unpaved) Forest Road (FR) 249 begins. Then following Forest Service Road #249 in a southerly direction to the intersection of FR 249 and FR 249E, then following FR 249E in a west, northwesterly direction to where FR 249E intersects with FR 116, then following FR 116 in a northerly direction until FR 116 intersects with Highway 273, then following Highway 273 in a southeasterly direction to the point of beginning at the intersection of Highway 273 and Highway 261.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Order is to provide for public safety by minimizing adverse interactions between bears and humans.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. This Order will be in effect, when signed, and shall remain in effect until January 31st, 2025, or until rescinded, whichever comes first.
2. A Map identifying the Restricted Area is attached and is made part of this Order as Exhibit A.
3. Food and Refuse Storage and Sanitation definitions are attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit B.
4. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable as a class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual, or \$10,000 for an organization and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both (*see* 16 U.S.C. § 551, 18 U.S.C. § 3571(b)(6), 18 U.S.C. § 3581 (b)(7)).
5. Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at the Springerville Ranger District Office at 30 South Chiricahua Dr. Springerville, AZ, telephone number (928-333-6200), and at Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Supervisors Office at 30 South Chiricahua Dr. Springerville, AZ, telephone number (928-333-6280).
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this Order.

Done at Springerville, AZ this 19th day of May, 2020.

Anthony Madrid
Acting Forest Supervisor
Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest

Exhibit B

Food and Refuse Storage and Sanitation

Definitions

1. "Food or Refuse" means any substance, solid or liquid (excluding water, baled hay, or hay cubes without additives) which is or may be eaten or otherwise taken into the body to sustain health or life, provide energy, or promote growth of any person or animal. Also includes items such as soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, canned foods, pet foods, processed livestock feed and grains, bird food, personal hygiene products, and empty food and beverage containers.
2. "Acceptably stored" means:
 - a. Stored in a closed vehicle where the storage compartment is constructed of solid, non-pliable material that, when secured, will have no openings, hinges, lids, or coverings that would allow a bear to gain entry by breaking, bending, tearing, biting, or pulling with its claws (any windows in the vehicle must be closed), or
 - b. Suspended at least 10 feet clear of the ground at all points and four feet horizontally from any supporting tree or pole, or
 - c. Stored within a hard-sided residence, building, or storage container subject to the terms and conditions of a special-use authorization or operating plan, or
 - d. Stored by other methods approved in a permit issued by the forest supervisor responsible for the area where the method is proposed for use or
 - e. Stored in a bear resistant container. Bear-resistant container: A securable container constructed of solid material capable of withstanding 200 foot-pounds of energy applied by direct impact. The container, when secured and under stress, will not have any openings greater than one quarter inch that would allow a bear to gain entry by biting or pulling with its claws.
3. "Acceptably possessed" means:

Possessed or attended during daytime by a person(s) that is physically present within 100 feet and direct sight of the accessible food.
4. "Camping/sleeping area" means National Forest System Lands temporarily used for the purpose of overnight occupancy without a permanently fixed structure or lands temporarily occupied by unattended camping equipment.
5. "Nighttime" means 1/2 hour before sunset to 1/2 hour after sunrise, Mountain Time as published by the US Naval Observatory.
6. "Daytime" means 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, Mountain Time as published by the US Naval Observatory.