

# TONTO National Forest



Recreation  
Opportunity  
Guide

[www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto)



VISITOR INFORMATION

## RECREATIONAL SHOOTING

### WELCOME!

Many people enjoy target shooting and plinking in open country. When participating in this activity, shooters must be aware of federal and state gun laws covering National Forest System lands.

The following is information that will give you a better understanding of regulations and guidelines relating to the discharge of firearms on your national forest so that your visit will be a safe and enjoyable one.

### CONCERNS

Problems that may arise when shooting on open national forest land include:

- Safety of other forest visitors
- Disturbance of other forest visitors
- Littering: targets and shell casings, etc.
- Starting wildfires
- Damage to private or public property
- Damage to natural features such as cactus and wildlife

### FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Regulations covering National Forest System Lands are found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36. As listed in 36 CFR 261.9 and 261.10, the following are prohibited:

- Shooting within one-quarter mile of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area
- Shooting across or on a forest road
- Shooting across or on a body of water adjacent to a forest road
- Shooting in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage
- Damaging any natural feature or other property of the United States

### ARIZONA RESTRICTIONS

- The Quarter-Mile Rule: *State law* prohibits shooting while hunting within one-quarter mile of any residence or building, or any other developed facility. In addition, authorities use the quarter-mile rule as a guideline for determining if any type of gun use is reckless or if someone is endangered.
- State law prohibits shooting from a vehicle while hunting, and authorities also consider "road-shooting" as endangerment.

### THINK BEFORE YOU SHOOT

- The sound of gunfire can make people nervous (even when done safely). Stay comfortably away from other forest visitors.
- Be certain of your target and backstop.
- Know the effective range and maximum range of the firearm and ammunition you are using.
- Do not leave targets or other debris. Remove shell casings -- especially shotgun shells.
- Do not use glass objects as targets.
- If someone else is shooting, don't crowd in on him or her.

### AREAS CLOSED TO SHOOTING ON THE TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

- CAMP CREEK, ST. CLAIR, BARTLETT and VERDE RIVER AREAS (Order 12-182)
- NEEDLE ROCK AREA (Order 12-137, as revised)
- USERY MOUNTAINS, BULLDOG CANYON, GOLDFIELD MOUNTAINS, and FIRST WATER/LOST DUTCHMAN AREAS (Order 12-146, as revised)
- LOWER SALT RIVER RECREATION AREA (Order 12-5, as revised)
- SUPERSTITION WILDERNESS AREA (Order 12-59, as revised)
- ALL DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES  
This includes all campgrounds, picnic sites, etc.(36 CFR §261-10)

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### NEARBY OPPORTUNITIES FOR TARGET SHOOTING

#### •Northern Gila County Range

Route 87

Payson, AZ 84451

(928) 472-6780

Located east of AZ Hwy 87 about two miles south of Payson (just south of the Gibson Ranch Road/Forest Road 412). Turn east on Forest Road 208 for one mile and take the left fork for another 0.8 mile to the range.

Rifle, pistol, and archery shooting allowed.

Open to the public on Saturdays, 9 am – 5 pm

\$5.00 fee for non-members of the Tonto Rim Sportsmen's Club.

#### •Red Mountain Trap & Skeet Club

15001 E. Beeline Hwy.

Scottsdale, AZ 85256

(480) 990-9994

Located on AZ Hwy 87 between Shea and Gilbert on the east side of the highway.

Shotguns only.

Open to the public: Tuesday – Sunday; call for hours.

Fee charged.

#### •Ben Avery Target Range

4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd.

Phoenix, AZ 85027

(520) 582-8313

Located on the north side of Carefree Hwy. ½ mile west of I-17 (take exit 223). Open to the public Wednesday through Sunday (except holidays) from 7:00 a.m. until sunset.

Rifle, pistol, and shotgun shooting are allowed.

Daily fee.

#### •Usery Mountain Target Range

Rio Salado Shooting Club

3960 North Usery Pass Road

Mesa, AZ 85207

(480) 984-9610

Located on the west side of Usery Pass Road (Ellsworth Road) 7½ miles north of U.S. Highway 60.

Rifle, pistol, and shotgun shooting allowed.

Open to the public 7 days a week. Daily fee charged.

### A WORD TO THE WISE

The information contained in this guide is for general information purposes only. It is not a substitute for the law. You are fully accountable for knowing the laws and regulations when you deal with firearms under any circumstances.

### REFERENCES

•*Arizona Hunting Regulations*, Arizona Game & Fish Department

•*Arizona revised Statutes, Title 13*

•*Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36*

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## RECREATIONAL SHOOTING

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

•**Forest Supervisor's Office**

2324 E. McDowell Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85006  
(602) 225-5200

•**Cave Creek Ranger Station**

40202 North Cave Creek Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85262  
(480) 595-3300

•**Globe Ranger Station**

7680 Sixshooter Canyon Road  
Globe, AZ 85501  
(928) 402-6200

•**Mesa Ranger Station**

5140 East Ingram Street  
Mesa, AZ 85205  
(480) 610-3300

•**Payson Ranger Station**

1009 East Hwy 260  
Payson, AZ 85441  
(928) 474-7900

•**Pleasant Valley Ranger Station**

P.O. Box 450  
Young, AZ 85554  
(928) 462-4300

•**Tonto Basin Ranger Station**

28079 N. AZ Hwy 188  
Roosevelt, AZ 85545  
(928) 467-3200

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