

Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting Minutes: (*July meeting, special session for USFS recreation fee proposals*) [Virtual Meeting]

Attendees:

Resource Advisory Council Members [Table]:

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Bill Brake (Chair)	Sharma Torrens	Robert Broscheid
Steve Trussell	Michael Quigley	Julie Engle
Allison Ellingson	Eileen Baden	Paul David
Paul Baumgardt	Jill Bunnell	Patrice Horstman
John Sanders	Aaron Divine	Larry Howery, Ph.D.
Commercial/Commodity Interests	Environmental, Dispersed Recreation, Archaeological/Historic, Wild Horse & Burro Interests	Elected Officials, Native American, Public-at-Large, Academia, State and Local Government Officials
Governor's Representative: Clay Crowder, AZGFD	Designated Federal Official: Gera Ashton, Arizona BLM Associate State Director	BLM Arizona's RAC Coordinator: Dolores Garcia

BLM Staff:

Gera Ashton	Steven Ala
Amber Cargile	
Mark Morberg	
Gerald T. Davis	
Art Goldberg	
Dolores Garcia	
Michelle Ailport	

Public/Other: *No public signed in-person on either day.*

Presenters	Representing:
Devin Quintana	Acting Mesa District Ranger/Tonto NF
Kelly Arisa	USFS Tonto NF

Day 1 - Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting Minutes:

July 18, 2024

12:00 **Housekeeping and Introductions**

12:05 **Opening Remarks**

Q: Bill Brake: *Can you please confirm that the revenue from fee proposals discussed today all stay in and are reinvested at the locations they are purchased in?*

A: Correct, they all stay in the permit zones.

Q: Paul David: *I noticed in the proposals that all of the 5 areas discussed, seemingly 95% of the areas are being excluded for target shooting, rather than just the immediate areas surrounding the trails and roads, can you discuss this?*

A: Yes, this is a separate project within NEPA, it is something being discussed. It is within our forest plan to manage the ck. This is about user conflict, people shooting across trails, trigger trash, watersheds and more. We are discussing with AZGFD about exceptions. It would require federal register notice and public comment period as well as discussion with tribal communities.

Q: Larry Howery: *The article in the Mesa Tribune today has a slightly different fee structure than the one discussed in the presentation, can you clarify?*

A: Yes, they were using outdated information, it was the initial proposal. After Public comment we have revised it, we are proposing the 10/60/80 setup.

Q: Larry Howery: *Is the permit for these areas linked to individuals who may own multiple vehicles?*

A: That is correct

Q: Jill Bunnell: *On each permit area, is the permit area defined? How do you know when you enter an area other than the gates?*

A: Most of them have pipe railing for boundaries, but most roads define the boundaries. Topography also defines boundaries. We will work on signage.

Q: Jill Bunnell: *at a special event such as a corporate event, would all rental trailers need the \$10 permit?*

A: Yes, they will all need a permit. With the special use permit, there is an additional NEPA process and they will all be on an operating plan. These special use permittees will have existing rights. Everyone in these areas will have a valid permit to be there.

Q: Steve Trussell: *Can you please discuss projected revenue numbers?*

A: We did not talk about this today, but we expect 2 million dollars per year initially with slight fluctuations. We are discussing adding more zones with the new proposal in the future to

Q: Steve Trussell: *How do you communicate these plans to the public? What is most successful? Can you talk about how you intend on notifying updates to current permit holders?*

A: Having Forest Service employees out on trails helps with this. We will engage with the public through outreach and continue working to put the information out as widespread as possible. We also need to continue outreach to our stakeholder groups such as riding clubs through things like social media.

- *Bill Brake formally asks the USFS to come back to the RAC every year with status updates on how the recreation fees are going. This would help us and the RAC make informed decisions in the future.*
- *Devin Quintana responds that this will come through mandated FLREA reporting yearly and the RAC members will receive this information once per year.*

13:00 Public Comment Period

Comment: Rich Smith (President, Tonto Recreation Alliance):

We're very dependent on funding from Arizona State Parks and Trails from their OHV grant program. That's been wonderful and we hope to continue to be able to use that. It does put us at kind of almost a single source of funding. We do get funding from businesses who are in the OHV recreation business. This is not nearly enough needed, so any funding from this will go a long way to helping us with our efforts. We do a lot of stuff at the Tonto that helps OHV recreation. A couple of things I heard that I wanted to add on to what Devin and Kelly said- We have our own social media channels, and we have a lot of connections to clubs and other organizations. So, messaging and that kind of stuff, we work fairly carefully with the Tonto and the permit information will go out through our channels as well. So, we'll be helping get that message out there to our fellow off-roaders. One project we have ongoing is a free interactive user map of the Tonto for OHV recreation. And so, for example, we already have the Bulldog permit zone and the St. Clair permit zones on that map. So, if you're using that free map that we have to help you navigate and find out what's out there. So, they are shaded a slightly different color, and they have information. If you touch certain areas information pops up about the permits and associated fees (the fee stuff from when we get to the point of implementation).

I said this in the last RAC meeting, that I started out not so much as a fan of the implementation details of the fee proposal. I want to compliment the Tonto for working with the public, gathering lots of comments, and really doing a good job of addressing them. I think they've addressed all the

major comments (productive and serious comments) that I've heard from people about changes to implementation. So much better now than when it first started. The last thing I wanted to say, is that I think this is going to end up being a good thing, I hope. I can see other federal land managers wanting to get on in on this as well.

To the RAC: one of the comments made that was not exactly completely pertinent to the Tonto proposal, but that in my opinion, I think there ought to be some sort of broader discussion that starts regarding a centralized federal land fee structure somehow, since the majority of land in the state that can be used for OHV recreation is federal. Either BLM or USFS. Every land management area is doing their own thing. I would like to see something broader than that. So I guess that's echoing the concerns of some and maybe a suggestion for the future and then.

****This was the only public comment, at this point the RAC members have a general discussion****

- *Bill Brake mentions his agreeance in not enjoying fees for land use but in understanding they are for the greater good as services like trash pickup are more important than money spent on fees.*
- *JC Sanders praises USFS's Kelly as doing an excellent job and appreciates the presentation given. He is glad that the presentations clearly identified it is for all motorized vehicles. This was an excellent presentation.*
- *Sharma Torrens also praises the job USFS did and the presentation given. She discusses her appreciation in environmental impact mitigation and reducing resource damages. With the fees being implemented we will appreciate and treasure these things a little more. I do not enjoy the fees in theory, but they do need to happen.*
- *Paul David: I was going through the proposals on types of vehicles. I am surprised with their small amounts of impacts and no emissions that the type 1/2/3 electric bicycles as being required to have a permit.*
 - *Kelly responds that E-bikes are managed within the travel management rule at a higher national level and they are considered motorized vehicles.*
- *JC Sanders praises USFS's Kelly as doing an excellent job and appreciates the presentation given. He is glad that the presentations clearly identified it is for all motorized vehicles. This was an excellent presentation.*

Paul Baumgardt: *expressed appreciation for financial and revenues portions of the presentations. His overall sentiments are that 10 dollars for 3-day pass may turn off some users. Should there be a significant drop off in users due to implementation of the 3-day fee? Can USFS amend that fee or reduce it to increase users?*

A: *If we change this we have to come back to the RAC. The purpose of the 3-day permit are for out of town people or just visiting the area for short time. We expect majority to get the 6 month or annual permit.*

Q: Mike Quigley: can you clarify that permits are required for any motorized vehicles accessing these areas, not just specific OHVs?

A: Yes

Q: So, it is a USFS road access fee rather than an OHV use fee?

A: Yes

Q: Does the America the Beautiful Pass cover this?

A: No, this is a standard amenity pass, not an Special Recreation Permit fee.

Q: Do the fees all go into one big pot for redistributing them into the areas?

A: Funding collected in these zones need to be spent in the zones, but all 5 specific permit zones are collected together into one fund for all of them.

Q: I am confused on arrangement with enforcement with AZFGD, what exactly are they doing?

A: They can help enforce OHV laws in permit zone.

Clay Crowder: AZGFD will not enforce any fee collection activity. A couple areas to point out is that monitoring resources and user behavior is a key piece for the future. What this does for users pushed out of fee areas will present a challenge to us. The monitoring is a key piece. Otherwise, 95% of concerns have been addressed at this point through working with USFS.

Devin Quintana: We did work through all of that within NEPA. We had conversations to make sure we were addressing everything. Our intent is really to work on that so in our implementation plan that was presented. If there's an opportunity for us to help fund some of the resources needed from AZGFD. We do receive a lot of support from Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. And I know at times they get taxed for a variety of reasons, but that's part of their mission too, is to respond to issues. So, we have an existing cooperative law enforcement agreement, and we intend to continue with more resources to fund them to respond to these incidents. Kelly brought up earlier, just as a side note, is that our law enforcement officers all agree that when we have a presence there people are more responsible, they're using their PPE, they're slowing down. You're not seeing a lot of the trash, devastation, and severe impacts to the resources. So, by us having a presence there, we're seeing more of a positive impact.

- **Bill Brake** is glad to have BLM Arizona's DFO Gera Ashton is in attendance to listen to the questions, comments, and overall concerns regarding USFS's fee proposals. He would like to have a review of the fees collected from USFS yearly during March.
- **Eileen Baden:** I saw on the Maricopa Association of Governments, they have a "Desert Spaces Plan" for 1995 and they identify conservation and retention areas. The conservation are really the outstanding open space areas. With retention, they're saying they are high value open space areas, but not as outstanding as those set for conservation. That are set for conservation, and I notice that a lot of the OHP areas are in that retention area. So, I'll send that that document to you Devin and Kelly. This also helped to help me to really understand the areas proposed and why they are good for OHV use whereas you'll see that East as the OHV areas you get to more conservation focused area. The Plan really helped me to help me understand the geography.

13:40 Votes

- *Dolores Garcia goes over the voting protocol and begins a formal vote count.*

Bill Brake: Yes

JC Sanders: Yes (Subject to the requirement for the annual reporting on the results)

Steve Trussell: Yes

Alison Ellingson: Yes

Paul Baumgardt: Yes

Sharma Torrens: Yes

Michael Quigley: No

Eileen Baden: Yes

Aaron Divine: Yes

Jill Bunnell: Yes, but no on the 40 hours for fee waiver on volunteer hours

Larry Howery: Yes

Robert Broscheid: Yes

Julie Engel: Yes

Paul David: Yes

Patrice Horstman: Yes

There is a consensus for Yes.

There is a “No” for Mr. Quigley and 2 conditional No’s with regards to the fee waiver for volunteers and reporting. We can work with the USFS service to meet regarding those.

13:45 Closing Remarks

- *Gera Ashton thanks the RAC members for being in attendance and the USFS for their presentation.*
- *Dolores mentions the 2 other meetings occurring this year, one in October and one in December which are on the BLM AZ RAC page.*

13:50 Meeting Adjourned

Tonto National Forest

OHV Special Recreation Permit
For Motorized Uses



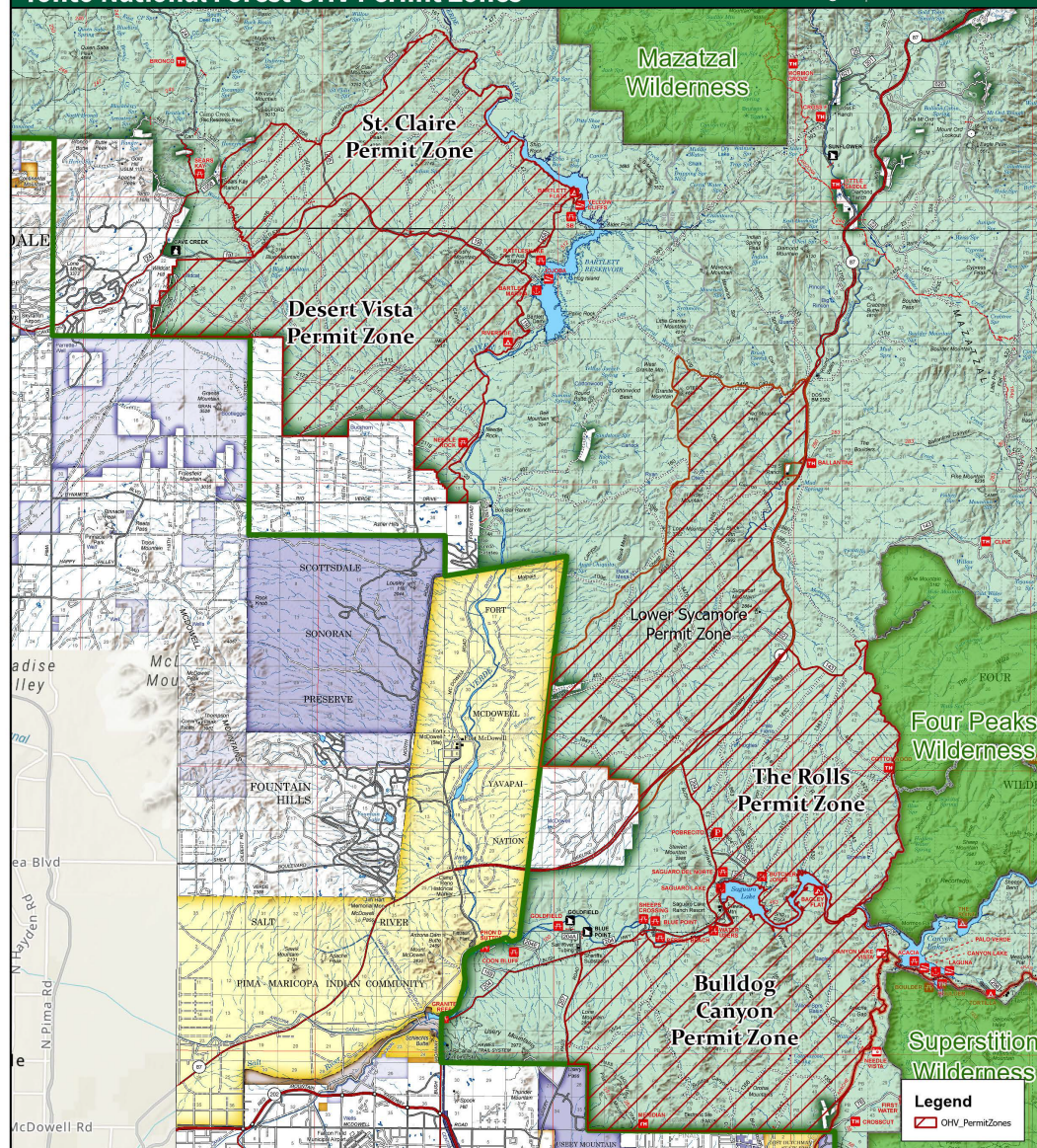
Today's Objectives & Recap

Last Time

- Discussed OHV fee proposal layout, including changes made based on comments and feedback
- Planned accomplishments- more signs, trail maintenance, enlarging staging areas, trash removal, more facilities, law enforcement & patrollers, etc.
- Showed examples of accomplishments from other fee areas
- Outreach, comments received
- Photos and video of issues in the OHV areas

Today

- St. Clair OHV Permit Zone opening
- Review Tonto NF's Travel Management
- Lower Sycamore NEPA
- AZGFD discussions
- Tonto NF's OHV Budget Plan
- Differences Between Tonto NF Passes & Permits
- Questions?



Permit Zones Map Overview

Five OHV Permit Zones:
One Permit is valid for
all 5 locations

Overview of Fee Proposal

No change since April

OHV Permit Zone Location	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Bulldog Canyon	\$6 Processing Fee	<div>\$10* per 3-day permit \$60* per 6-month permit \$80* per annual permit</div> <div>Permit Required Per Vehicle</div> <div>*plus processing fee TBD</div>
St. Clair**		
Desert Vista	None	
The Rolls	None	
Lower Sycamore	None	

**St. Clair OHV Permit Zone recently opened to motorized uses in April 2024 and the Tonto NF began requiring the free (\$6 processing fee) permit through Recreation.gov on May 1. One permit accesses both Bulldog Canyon and St. Clair.

The Tonto NF would not implement Lower Sycamore as a Permit Zone until additional NEPA is complete.

St. Clair OHV Permit Zone

- The St. Clair area was closed to motorized vehicles in 2005 due to the Cave Creek Fire Complex (multiple wildfires). It remained closed from 2005-2024 while the area healed.



- The last few years, Tonto NF staff monitored the area to determine if the resources could withstand impacts from motorized recreation again. TRAL and other dedicated volunteers and partners spent more than 5,000 volunteer hours helping Tonto NF survey, sign, fence, improve trails, and prepare the area for motorized use again.





St. Clair OHV Permit Zone

- On April 6th, 2024, the St. Clair OHV Permit Zone was opened to motorized vehicles for the first time in 19 years.
- On May 1, 2024, the District began requiring the free (\$6 processing fee) permit through www.recreation.gov. Those who have already purchased the Bulldog Canyon permit now have access to St. Clair; one permit gives access to both Permit Zones.
- The District began managing the St. Clair OHV Permit Zone with open gates; no gate combination is needed at this time. Bulldog Canyon still has gated access.



Tonto NF Travel Management Record of Decision

ROD was signed October 5, 2021

This 10+ year NEPA process included public comment and a secondary Environmental Impact Statement to address all concerns. The final designation included:

- 1,378 miles of open roads & 2,265 miles of open motorized trails
- 8 OHV Areas (where cross-country travel is allowed)
- 4 OHV Area Tot Lots
- 4 OHV Permit Zones:
 - Bulldog Canyon (existing and predated this ROD)
 - Desert Vista
 - The Rolls
 - St. Clair

2005 Travel Management Rule

- The 2005 Travel Management Rule requires Forests to designate a system of roads, trails, and areas for motor vehicle use. These designated routes and areas will be displayed on a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

Implementation

- We're obligated to implement the 2021 decision in a timely manner. Our MVUM is almost ready for production, and we're moving forward with implementing permit zones one at a time.
- The ROD addresses the need for additional NEPA in some areas and trails, implementing in phases, and utilizing REA fees.
- Funding and resource limitations are slowing down the implementation process (it took 5,000+ volunteer hours to get St. Clair ready as a Permit Zone!).
- We're seeking additional support from partners and volunteers to help construct Tot Lots and OHV Areas to meet the requirements of the 2005 TMR and our 2021 ROD.

Lower Sycamore OHV Permit Zone

- Lower Sycamore OHV Permit Zone is the 5th Permit Zone included in the OHV SRP fee proposal. It was not included in the Tonto NF's final 2021 Travel Management ROD, however, it was analyzed.
- If the Tonto NF is approved to collect fees in the Lower Sycamore OHV Permit Zone, we will follow NEPA requirements including a public comment period before implementing this Permit Zone.
- Many of the comments received for the OHV SRP proposal were directly related to Lower Sycamore.



Arizona Game & Fish Department Discussions



- Met with AZGFD June 11, 2024 to address their questions and concerns
- Sent a follow up letter to summarize the meeting and topics discussed

Why did the Lower Sycamore OHV Permit Zone change from 1,331 acres to 35,544 acres?

The original map put out for public comment was incorrect. The Tonto NF did not intend to advertise a 1,331 acre permit zone; that shape was from the Tonto NF's Travel Management decision as a cross-country travel area. Once we caught the error, the updated map was advertised to include the correct area.

Has the Tonto NF analyzed potential impacts to adjacent lands?

Analysis was completed during the Travel Management NEPA. Additional monitoring will be conducted after implementing the permit fee and may include photo points. Management action will be taken as necessary.

Will grants still be used? How?

Yes, the permit fee revenue will not be enough to fund the Tonto NF's growing OHV program. We will particularly use grants for areas outside of the permit zones.

Will there be enough LEOs to enforce regulations in the permit zones? AZGFD will not enforce the Tonto NF's OHV Permit.

The Tonto NF's Budget Plan includes funding for FPO's, FS LEOs, and agreements with MCSO & AZGFD for officers and patrol equipment.

Will non-OHV users be excluded from the permit zones?

Although the SRP's purpose is to manage motorized recreation, non-motorized recreation will still have access to the permit zones at no charge. All users that operate any type of motorized vehicle beyond the staging areas will be treated equally and required to have a permit.

We will also ensure signage and online education is clear.

Budget Plan



Focus:

Phase I ~August 2024 – September 2025 (FY 2025)	Phase II October 2025 – September 2026 (FY 2026)	Phase III October 2026 – September 2027 (FY 2027)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hiring temporary staff & FPO's Purchasing UTV's to patrol & perform trail maintenance Renting portable restrooms for staging areas Installing signs and improving information kiosks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocating funds to FS LEI, MCSO, & AZGFD agreements Hiring additional staff & FPO's Purchasing trail dozer and additional UTV's to perform trail maintenance in-house Installing select vault toilets at staging areas Renting roll-off dumpsters Construction of new staging areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocating funds towards partnership agreements & educational programs Hiring trail crews Investing in trail maintenance & rehab of impacted areas Installing select vault toilets at additional staging areas Expansion of existing and/or construction of new staging areas

Budget Plan Phase I

Item	Projected Cost
Signs	\$20,000
Salary – Seasonal Positions & FPO's	\$247,600
TRAL Agreement	\$50,000
4 UTV's	\$113,448
2 UTV Trailers	\$15,478
Wildcat Staging Area Improvements – Gravel & Compaction	\$100,000
Portable Toilets – 9 locations	\$36,000
TOTAL	\$582,526



Budget Plan Phase II

Item	Projected Cost
Signs	\$10,000
Cooperative LEI Agreements – MCSO & AZGFD	\$200,000
FS LEI Agreement	\$117,000
Salary – Seasonal Positions & FPO's	\$435,600
SWECO Trail Dozer	\$150,000
Heavy Equipment Trailer	\$15,000
TRAL Agreement	\$100,000
2 Additional Fleet Trucks (¾ ton, gas)	\$120,000

Item	Projected Cost
2 UTV's	\$53,724
3 UTV Trailers	\$26,739
Vault Toilet Pumping Contract	\$20,000
Installing 4 New Vault Toilets	\$300,000
Constructing New Ranch Road Staging Area	\$150,000
Expanding Palo Fierro & Cottonwood Staging Areas	\$200,000
4 Rolloff Dumpsters for Staging Areas	\$72,000
TOTAL	\$1,970,063



Budget Plan Phase III

Item	Projected Cost
Signs	\$5,000
Cooperative LEI Agreements – MCSO & AZGFD	\$200,000
FS LEI Agreement	\$117,000
Salary – Seasonal Positions & FPO's	\$435,600
TRAL Agreement	\$100,000
Natural Restorations & Other Partnership Agreements	\$50,000
Educational & Interp Materials	\$50,000

Item	Projected Cost
Additional Annual Fleet Costs	\$30,000
Vault Toilet Pumping Contract	\$20,000
Installing 4 More New Vault Toilets	\$300,000
Trail Crews – Brushing & Heavy Maintenance	\$72,000
Trail Rehab & Resource Improvement	\$400,000
4 Rolloff Dumpsters for Staging Areas	\$72,000
Pobrecito Staging Area Expansion (Stage II)	\$150,000
TOTAL	\$2,001,600



Outreach and Volunteer Efforts



Tonto OHV/Motorized Use Permit vs. Tonto Pass

16 USC Ch. 87 §6802. Recreation Fee Authority

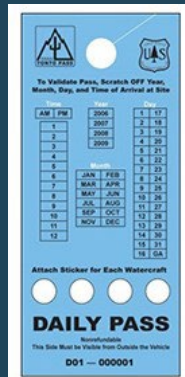
Standard Amenity & Expanded Amenity Fee

(Tonto Pass/Discovery Pass)

Section (f) Standard amenity recreation fee: lists requirements of an area to contain certain amenities such as designated developed parking, permanent trash receptacle, etc. to charge fees

Section (g) Expanded amenity recreation fee: includes use of campgrounds, boat launches, rental cabins, dump stations, etc.

Section (d)(1): lists prohibitions when a fee shall not be charged such as at dispersed areas with low investment, for camping at undeveloped sites that do not provide a minimum number of facilities and services, for persons driving through recreation lands without using the facilities or services, etc.



Special Recreation Permit Fee

(OHV/Motorized Use Permit)

Section (h): “The Secretary may issue a special recreation permit, and charge a special recreation permit fee in connection with the issuance of the permit, for specialized recreation uses of Federal recreational lands and waters, such as group activities, recreation events, motorized recreational vehicle use.”

Tonto OHV/Motorized Use Permit vs. Tonto Pass

The Tonto National Forest's 2021 Travel Management ROD states on page 19:

“A permit system is an effective tool for minimizing negative recreational impacts within high-use or sensitive natural environments. Within these designated OHV permit zones, individuals will need to acquire an OHV permit to use these areas for motorized recreation.”



The Tonto National Forest's Land Management Plan states:

REC-MA-08 (page 31) “Consider the use of permit and reservation systems to preserve the integrity of the TNF’s natural resources and to reduce visitor conflicts where recreation impacts cannot otherwise be reasonably managed (e.g. wilderness areas, popular recreational shooting locations, popular off-highway vehicle areas).”

REC-DIS-MO-MA-03 (page 37) “Consider implementing off-highway vehicle permit zones to increase public awareness and improve compliance in areas with high user conflicts or resource damage.”

A permit allows us to collect personal information about the permit holder, versus a pass that can be purchased by anyone and is not tied to any one individual, vehicle, etc.

Online Permit

Convenient, online permit allows the Forest a way to collect the necessary data associated with a Special Recreation Permit. Currently administered through Recreation.gov.



Tonto National Forest - OHV Permit

Rules & Regulations

Entry & Use

- Every person operating a vehicle in a Tonto OHV Permit Zone must have a valid Tonto National Forest OHV Permit issued in their name, a valid driver's license or alternate identification (unless you're under 16 years old), and an Arizona State OHV Decal (resident or non-resident) attached to the license plate on your vehicle.
- Permits must be in your possession at all times while in an OHV Permit Zone. You must present your permit to a Forest Service Officer along with identification upon their request. If your permit is not in your possession, your permit will be revoked for a full year and you may be cited for failure to have a permit for access.
- Permit zones require an access code to open the locked gate. This code will be provided to you when you receive your permit. All gates are to remain closed at all times except when you are passing through them. It is your responsibility to re-lock entrance gates after using them. Do not allow other individuals or groups to pass through the gates after you have gone through unless they have an OHV permit in their possession. Sharing combinations or access codes with non-permitted individuals is a violation of your permit and grounds for revocation of the permit.
- The Tonto National Forest OHV trails are open year-round subject to severe weather, other forest conditions or special closures. Please check the TNF Forest Service website for any special closure notices (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/tonto/alerts-notices>).

Camping and Other Non-Motorized Activity within Motorized Vehicle Permit Areas

- As with all Federal lands, fireworks are not allowed anywhere in the permit zones.
- Hunting during regular hunting seasons with a valid hunting license is allowed in all Tonto OHV Permit Zones subject to Arizona State Game and Fish hunting regulations. A valid permit is required to access the zone with a vehicle.
- Each Tonto OHV Permit Zone may have different restrictions on camping, so be sure to check with your local District Office before you go. Generally, camping is prohibited at all staging areas and access points to allow for day-use parking and trailer staging.
- In Bulldog Canyon OHV Permit Zone, camping is prohibited for the first mile from each access gate, with the exception of Blue Point access gate; camping is prohibited for the first two miles from this gate. This restriction includes a distance of 300 feet on either side of the road/trail.
- In St. Clair OHV Permit Zone, the Devil's Hole destination spot is a day use area only to due frequent unannounced flooding.
- Facilities- there are currently no developed campgrounds or restrooms at the staging areas, access points, and throughout the permit zone. Please Pack-it-in and Pack-it-out so that others who recreate after you can enjoy the forest too.

Conditions

- Any violation of the Rules and Regulations listed in this OHV Permit (i.e. vehicular travel off road or trail, camping in prohibited areas, etc.) would result in this OHV Permit being void and could result in citation.

Tonto National Forest
Cave Creek Ranger District Office
40202 N. Cave Creek Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
(480) 995-3300

Riding Restrictions

- Vehicles must stay on designated roads and trails. All cross-country travel by vehicle, including OHVs, is prohibited.
- Travel by vehicles which causes damage to native plants, wildlife habitat, riparian areas, cultural or natural resources or property or improvements is prohibited.
- It is unlawful to operate an OHV under the influence of drugs or alcohol or in such a manner that endangers the safety of others.
- All OHVs and riders must meet Arizona State Requirements including:
 - Helmet: A properly fitted and fastened DOT approved helmet is required for those under 18 who operate or ride an OHV. Helmets are strongly recommended for all OHV operators and riders over 18.
 - Eye protection for the driver or a windshield
 - A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved spark arrester
 - A muffler which prevents sound above 96 decibels
 - Brakes adequate to stop the vehicle
 - Lighted headlights and taillights, if the OHV is operated between one half-hour after sunset and one half-hour before sunrise
 - License plate securely fastened to the rear of the vehicle and clearly visible
 - Seat and footrests for the operator and each passenger
 - Rearview mirror
- Removal or placement of regulatory signs is prohibited. OHV Volunteers work hard to repair damage to help keep trails signed and open for your use.

Safety

- Riders should wear appropriate safety gear, carry a first aid kit, plenty of water, ride with a partner, and ride with caution.
- All trails are two-way and provide a primitive trail experience. Blind turns, down trees, flooded washes, other OHV riders, and non-motorized recreation users (e.g., hikers) should be anticipated.
- The Telegraph Line Trail (MT-42) in the St. Clair OHV Permit Zone is an advanced/technical route requiring specialized skills and equipment. Not recommended for inexperienced drivers or stock vehicles. This is a one-way route that may be traveled from east to west due to the narrow trail and limited pull-outs.

Permit #:

COPY #:

Holds the Permit Holder responsible and requires them to “accept” the terms and conditions of the permit by reading through the Rules & Regulations of the Permit Zone before purchasing and receiving the permit with gate codes (if applicable).

Additional Opportunities

- 5 National Fee Free Days, with potential for more designated by the Forest
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 - National Get Outdoors Day
 - Juneteenth
 - National Public Lands Day
 - Veterans Day
- The Forest and Region are looking into partnering with local libraries to provide recreation opportunities on the Tonto NF with the Cultural Pass
- Volunteers- fee waiver will be available for volunteers that have documented more than 40 hours of volunteer work in OHV areas on the Tonto NF or adjacent public lands
 - More details are in the Implementation Plan
- 88% of the Forest's motorized routes remain outside of the Permit Zones and free to recreationists year-round





Questions?

