

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC LANDS: Maricopa County, Arizona

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix District Office, Arizona

ACTION: Temporary closure of public land in Maricopa County, Arizona.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Phoenix District is giving notice that we are temporarily closing certain lands to all recreational activities including but not limited to motorized use, pedestrian or equestrian use, target shooting, camping, and hiking beginning February 20, 2018. These closures are taking public health and safety into account by protecting from hazards associated with power line repair, fiber optic line burials, and other associated infrastructure repair or modifications. The closures will also protect utility or company workers from hazards associated with potential recreational activities in the area.

The Closed/Restricted Areas Are The Following:

BLM-administered land in T. 1 N. R. 4 W. all of section 12 and all BLM lands in Sections 11, 13, and 14 totaling 1,034 acres of public land in the White Tank Mountains/Miller Road area west of Phoenix north of Interstate 10, within City of Buckeye limits.

BLM will post closure signs at main entry point to this area. You may obtain a map of the closure area and information from the Phoenix District Office.

DATES: This closure will be in effect from the date of signature until considerable adverse effects of public use in this area are eliminated, and measures are implemented to prevent recurrence of these adverse effects.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rem Hawes, Hassayampa Field Manager, 21605 North 7th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85027; by telephone at (623) 580-5530.

DISCUSSION OF THE RULES: Under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1(a), BLM will enforce the following rule on public lands within the closed area:

To protect persons, property, public lands and resources, the authorized officer may issue an order to close or restrict use of designated public lands.

EXEMPTIONS: Persons who are exempt from these rules include:

- Any Federal, State, or local officer or employee in the scope of their duties;
- Members of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in performance of an official duty;
- Any person/stakeholder with prior existing rights or written approval by the Bureau of Land Management; and
- Any persons traveling on Tonopah Salome Highway and/or North Parker Liberty Power Road for the purpose of through travel; who are operating in accordance with Federal, State and/or County regulations. (non-street legal motorized vehicles are not allowed on county maintained roadways).

PENALTIES: The authorities for this closure are section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C 1733(a)) and 43 CFR 8360.0-7. Any person who violates this closure may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided by 18 U.S.C. 3571.


Leon Thomas
District Manager, Phoenix BLM

2-20-18
Date