

## **Closure of Selected Public Lands in Gila County, AZ**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior

**ACTION:** Notice of Temporary Use Restriction

**SUMMARY:** This order restricts public use of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at the Shores Recreation Site along the Gila River near the Town of Winkelman in Gila County, Arizona.

This order is issued under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1 and affects the following public lands:

### **Gila and Salt River Principal Meridian, Arizona**

T. 5 S., R. 16 E., Sec. 5. The area described contains approximately 30 acres.

**DATES:** This use restriction shall be effective on the date of approval by the Authorized Officer, and shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Gila District, Tucson Field Office, 12661 East Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85748-7208; telephone (520) 258-7200.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Shores Recreation Site is managed to provide recreation opportunities and is used by the public for camping, picnicking, fishing, birdwatching, river floating, and other activities with incidental water contact. The grounds at the Recreation Site have become contaminated with widespread accumulation of human feces and toilet paper left by visitors on the ground surface. Human feces and contaminated materials may contain microorganisms and pathogens, including *Giardia*, fecal coliform bacteria, and hepatitis, that pose a public health hazard. Public use in the affected area exposes visitors to these biological hazards, which are known to cause illness and chronic disease, and may be fatal to some populations. The public health hazard will continue at the site unless immediate management action is taken. This use restriction will help reduce public exposure to the health hazards, while measures are taken to mitigate the hazards and prevent recurrence from improper human waste disposal by visitors. The BLM anticipates the site will be reopened to public use after the hazards are alleviated, which is planned to occur by September 4, 2009.

The Shores Recreation Site described herein will be subject to the following use restrictions:

1. Unless otherwise authorized, no person shall enter or remain in the restricted area.
2. Persons who are exempt from the restriction include:
  - (a) Any federal, state, or local officers engaged in fire, emergency or law enforcement activities;
  - (b) BLM employees engaged in official duties; and
  - (c) Persons specifically authorized by the BLM to enter the restricted area.

The area affected by this order will be posted with appropriate regulatory signs. Temporary physical barriers will be installed to prevent motor vehicle entry.

*Penalties:* On all public lands, under Section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1733(a), 43 CFR 8360.0-7, and 43 CFR 9212.4, any person who violates closures or restrictions on public lands 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 for by 18 U.S.C. 3571 (not to exceed \$100,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months).

Dated: August 14, 2009

signed by Tom Dabbs

**Tom Dabbs**

*Gila District Manager*