Order Number 03-05-05-319

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST
SANTA CATALINA RANGER DISTRICT

TEMPORARY AREA CLOSURE

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and Title 36 CFR 261.50 (a) the following acts are prohibited in the area described in this order, and depicted on the attached map hereby incorporated into this order as Exhibit A (the "restricted area"), all within the Santa Catalina Ranger District, Coronado National Forest, Pima County, Arizona:

PROHIBITIONS:

1. **Enter beyond 400 feet off designated Forest Service trails in the restricted area from January 1 through April 30 (36 C.F.R. 261.53a).**
2. **Bring in, possess, or allow dogs, except seeing-eye dogs or handi-dogs, in the restricted area at any time during the year (36 C.F.R. 261.58s).**
3. **Use a campsite or other area in the restricted area by more than a maximum day use group-size of fifteen (15) individuals and a maximum overnight group-size of six individuals at any time during the year (36 C.F.R. 261.58f).**

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a Forest Service permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

RESTRICTED AREA DESCRIBED:

This order effects Occupancy and Use of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Bighorn Sheep Management Area described herein as encompassing:

1. **12S, R14E all or portions of sections 1, 2, 9, 10, 19, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, and 36; T12 S, R15E, all or portions of sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20; T11S, R14E all or portions of sections 25, 35, and 36; and T11S, R15 portions of sections 31 and 32.**
2. **This management area is contained within the Pusch Ridge Wilderness and Coronado National Forest and is further described by the following boundaries:**
    a. **The western portion of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness along the south boundary to its intersections with the Ventana Canyon Trail # 98 and west and north to the wilderness boundary intersection with the Sutherland Wash Trail #6**
    b. **The north and east boundary are along Sutherland Wash Trail #6 to a point 8.0 miles from the trail's beginning in Catalina State Park, thence south along the ridge line to a junction with the Romero Trail #8, thence east on Romero Trail 1.0 miles to its junction with the West Fork Tail, then south to the West Fork Trail #24 junction with Cathedral Rock Trail #26, thence southwest on Cathedral Rock Trail to its junction with Esperero Trail # 25 to its junction with Ventana Canyon Trail #98, thence south on Ventana Canyon Trail to its intersection with the Pusch Ridge wilderness boundary.**

c. **Boundary trails on the north and east sides of the management area are closed to dogs except as specified in Prohibition #2.**
d. **National Forest system trails within the closure order area are Pima Canyon, Finger Rock, Pontatoc, Linda Vista, and Romero**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the temporary area closure is for the protection of Bighorn sheep reproduction and habitat.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. This Order shall be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect until September 30, 2014 or until it is rescinded, whichever is earlier.
2. This Order supersedes, rescinds, and replaces any previous orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this order.
3. Any violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000.00 for individuals and $10,000.00 for organizations, and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3571(b) (6), Title 18 USC 3581 (b) (7)].

Signed in Tucson, Arizona this 19 day of December 2013

JIM UPCHURCH
Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest

EXHIBIT C

Temporary Closure 03-05-05-319
Coronado National Forest
Santa Catalina Ranger District

Assessment of Need:

1) **Purpose**
The temporary closure order restricts access to parts of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness identified as the Bighorn Sheep Management Area (see attached map) to protect Bighorn sheep habitat, reintroduction, and lambing by prohibiting dogs year-round in the Management Area - including the boundary trails that define the eastern and northern border, restricting use and occupancy in the Management Area to within 400 feet of National Forest System trails from January 1 until April 30, and limiting group size year-round within the Management Area.

2) **Scope of the Order**
This order will extend until September 30, 2014. This order will stay in effect until rescinded when habitat and species protection is no longer required.

3) **How interested or potentially affected persons will be informed**
Closure Order copies will be posted at the Santa Catalina District Office, Coronado National Forest Supervisors Office, Catalina State Park, all system trailheads and user-created trails leading into the Management Area at the wilderness boundary. The closure order will be posted on the Coronado National Forest web site. The Forest will also publish a news release and invite media coverage.

NEPA Compliance: This Order falls under FSH 1909.15, 32.12, (1): *Categories of Actions for Which a Project or Case File and Decision Memo Are Not Required. A supporting record and a decision memo are not required, but at the discretion of the responsible official, may be prepared for the flowing categories: (1) Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR part 261 - Prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety.* This Order will not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. The Order is necessary to provide for, resource protection and Bighorn sheep restoration activities for the duration of the project.

Civil Rights Impact Statement: This Order does not constitute a "major action" as defined in FSH 1709.11, 31.1, Exhibit 01 (attached). It temporarily affects lands In the Pusch Ridge Wilderness by restricting recreational by use and occupancy for resource protection and the reintroduction of Bighorn sheep.

/s/ JIM UPCHURCH
Forest Supervisor

12/19/13
Date

Pusch Ridge Wilderness Area
Bighorn Sheep Management Area
Special Closure Order 03-05-05-319
Enforcement Plan

Background

The areas listed within the order has been closed since the March 13, 1996by two previous special orders. The closure orders were implemented to protect Bighorn sheep habitat, Bighorn sheep reintroduction, and lambing. Since 1996 the Coronado National Forest has worked as a partner with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to reestablish Bighorn sheep on their natural range in the Santa Catalina Mountains. This order is necessary to sustain that partnership and accomplish the goals of a supporting successful Bighorn sheep reintroduction and maintaining public access into the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Bighorn Sheep Management Area.

Intent

The intent of this order is to protect habitat and unique fauna by placing restrictions on Occupancy and Use of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness.

Enforcement

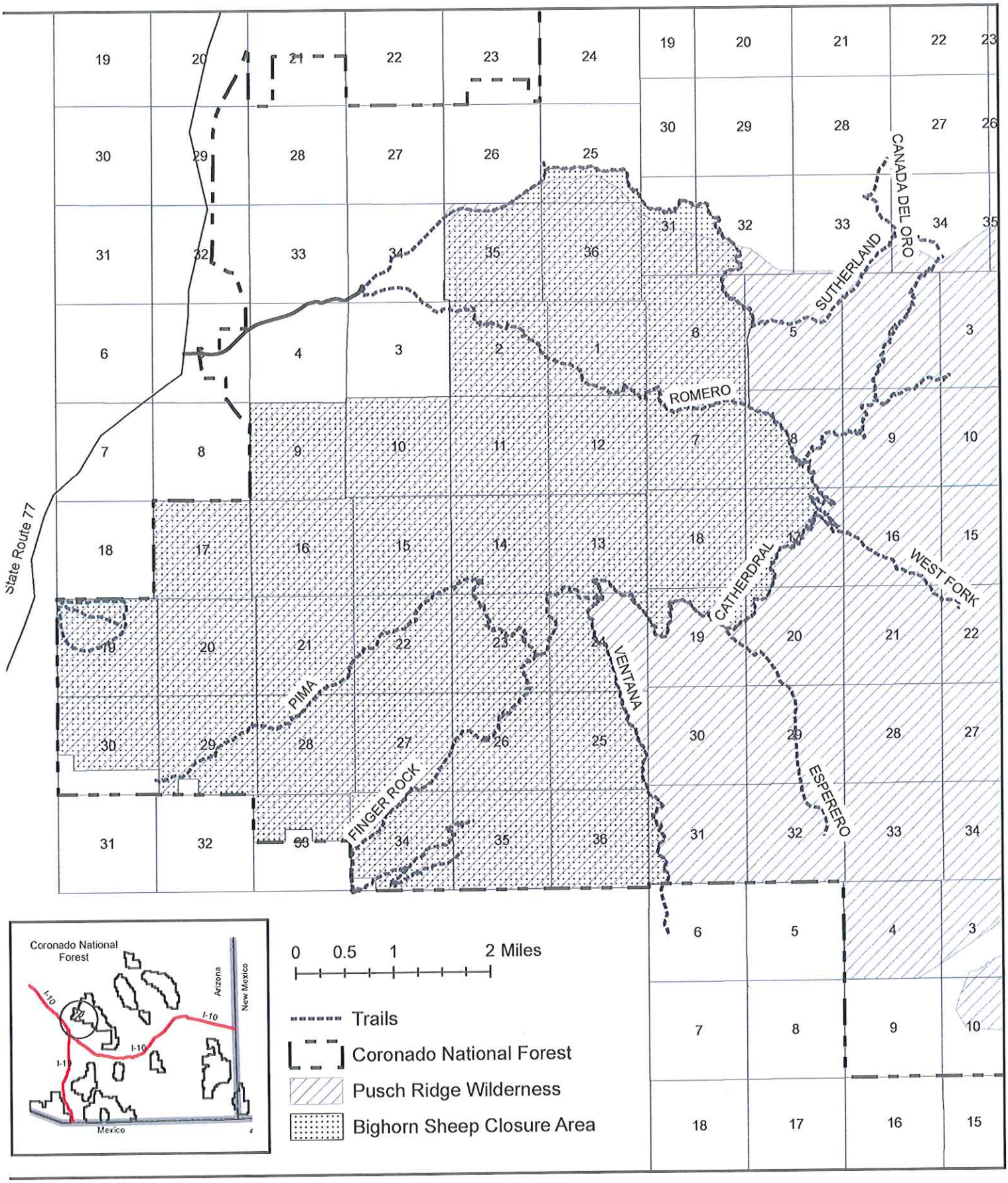
The closure order will be posted on bulletin boards at trailheads entering into the defined area of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness Bighorn Sheep Management Area (see attached map).

Permanent signs prohibiting dogs and informing the public of the seasonal area restrictions will be installed at trailheads anywhere user-created trails enter the Pusch Ridge wilderness boundary.

A press release will be issued prior to January 1 when restrictions adjacent to system trails take effect.

Forest Service Law Enforcement along with Pima County Sheriff Department currently patrols the trailheads and area. District Forest protection Officers Level II will continue to patrol these areas to ensure the public is aware the area has restrictions.

The Santa Catalina Volunteer Patrol will conduct public contacts at trailheads and on the trails affected by the closure order for the purpose of informing the public about the restrictions.

Arizona Game and Fish Department law enforcement personnel will patrol the Bighorn Sheep Management Area to inform the public, and, when appropriate obtain identification from individuals in violation of the closure order for forwarding to Forest Service Law Enforcement for further action

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