



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST  
QUESTA RANGER DISTRICT**

**SPECIAL CLOSURE**

**PROHIBITIONS**

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited on the National Forest System (NFS) lands and trails in the Questa Ranger District, Carson National Forest, described below and shown on the attached map incorporated into this Order as Exhibit A (the "Described Area and Trails"):

1. Going into or being upon the Described Area which are closed to protect the privacy of tribal activities for traditional and cultural purposes. 36 C.F.R. § 261.53(g)
2. Being on a trail within the Described Area 36 C.F.R § 261.55(a)

**EXEMPTIONS**

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Any enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe, as authorized by the Taos Pueblo.
2. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order), specifically exempting them from this Order or a written determination by a Forest Service Authorized officer that a permit is not required under 36 C.F.R. § 251.51(e)(1) or (2).
3. Any Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

**DESCRIBED AREA AND TRAILS**

As shown in the map at Exhibit A, the Described Area and Trails are within the boundary starting at Wheeler Peak, then following south for approximately 2,625 feet to Simpson Peak, then continuing southwest for 2.06 miles along the boundary of the Carson National Forest and Taos Pueblo to Lake Fork Peak (within Section 27, T. 27 N., R 14 E.), then following north for approximately 4,630 feet to Kachina Peak, then following the eastern ski area boundary northeast for approximately 4,915 feet, to include the Williams Lake Trail just above the Phoenix Restaurant at Taos Ski Valley (within Section 15, T. 27 N., R. 14 E.), then, continuing in a general south and southeasterly direction along Williams Lake Trail, continuing on to Wheeler Summit Trail, and then continuing south back to the point of beginning at Wheeler Peak. This area is generally known as the "Williams Lake Basin."

The Described Area and Trails also include a six-foot corridor beginning 200 feet northwest of Simpson Peak and extending east along the “Ridgeline Trail” for 2.63 miles along the boundary of the Carson National Forest and Taos Pueblo, to the Taos Cone (within Section 19, T. 27 N, R. 15 E.). The entirety of the Williams Lake and Wheeler Peak Summit Trails are part of the closure. Additionally, a portion of the Lost Lake Trail from Horseshoe Lake southwest for 1.35 miles to the ridgeline is closed. The Bull of the Woods Trail is closed from La Cal Basin to the Wheeler Peak Summit (within Section 23, T. 27 N., R. 14 E.).

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Order is to protect the privacy of traditional and cultural ceremonies of the Taos Pueblo.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

1. This Order will be effective on August 21, 2023, at 8:00 AM, and will remain in effect until August 27, 2023, or until rescinded.
2. A map identifying the Described Area and Trails is attached and made part of this Order as Exhibit A. For a digital version of this Order and Exhibit A, go to <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/> /alerts-notice.
3. Unless otherwise expressly defined in this order, the terms used in the Order are defined by the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture, 36 C.F.R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299. If there are terms in this Order that are not expressly defined in the Order or 36 C.F. R. Chapter II, Parts 200-299, their meaning shall be determined by their plain language definitions.
4. A violation of the above prohibition is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment of not more than six (6) months, or both (see 16 U.S.C. § 551, 18 U.S.C. §3559, 3571 and 3581.
5. Contact the Questa Ranger District in New Mexico, (575) 586-0520, and/or Carson National Forest Supervisor’s Office in New Mexico, (575) 758-6200 for more information about this order.
6. This Order supersedes any previous Orders prohibiting the same or similar acts in and on the same Described Area and Trails.

Signed and issued on, \_\_\_\_\_ .

**JACK LEWIS** Digitally signed by JACK LEWIS  
Date: 2023.08.09 20:04:09 -06'00'

**JACK LEWIS**  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
Carson National Forest



# Blue Lake Forest Order 2023 Order Number 03-02-07-23-06, Exhibit A







## Questa Ranger District, Carson National Forest

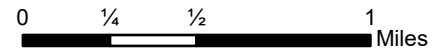


Map Author: sarahriviera 8/8/2023

### Disclaimer

The USDA Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USDA Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification. This map is not a legal land line or ownership document. Public lands are subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check with local offices. Obtain permission before entering private land.

-  Williams Lake Trailhead
-  Phoenix Restaurant
-  Taos Pueblo Boundary
-  Taos Ski Valley Boundary
-  DescribedArea
-  DescribedTrail



FOREST SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

