

**WASHINGTON OFFICE:**  
324 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3361  
FAX: (202) 225-3462



**FLAGSTAFF OFFICE:**  
405 N. BEAVER ST., SUITE 6  
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001  
(928) 288-5338  
FAX: (928) 779-6310

**CASA GRANDE OFFICE:**  
211 N. FLORENCE ST., SUITE 1  
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122  
(520) 316-0839  
FAX: (520) 316-0842

**TOM O'HALLERAN**

1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

October 27, 2020

Vicki Christiansen  
Chief  
U.S. Forest Service  
201 14<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Chief Christiansen,

I have been receiving outreach from constituents concerned about what appears to be an inability of the Forest Service to address the impacts of increased outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 Pandemic. I am concerned that this increase in use, without a corresponding increased law enforcement presence poses a threat to public safety.

As you may know, fire danger remains high across the west, including Arizona. Thus, reports of regular campfires in areas where fires and/or camping are prohibited pose a significant danger to the public. Constituents are regularly reporting unauthorized campfires in the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest, and there does not seem to be any concerted effort from the Forest Service to mitigate this.

Similarly, I am hearing that many visitors are traveling at excessive speeds on and off road in the area. I am under the impression that off highway vehicles are beginning to engage in more unauthorized off-road activity, and that there is an increasing number of accidents, like roll-overs occurring in the area.

What resources does the Forest Service need to address these issues? Does the agency need additional Congressional appropriations or does the agency need additional authorities to improve public awareness of the applicable orders and laws?

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom O'Halleran".

Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress