



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 49TH WING (AETC)
HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE NEW MEXICO**

49TH WING TEMPORARY CLOSURE ORDER

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LAND SURROUNDING THE HOLLOMAN EVAPORATION POND AT HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE

Action: Pursuant to 32 C.F.R. 809a.2(b), the U.S. Air Force hereby provides notice that effective August 14, 2025, the lands managed by the 49th Wing at Holloman Air Force Base (AFB) surrounding the Holloman Evaporation Pond (HEP) are temporarily closed to all forms of public access. The closure is necessary to help protect the public from potential exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), known to be in the water and soil in the vicinity of the HEP.

Location: DoD managed land in Otero County adjacent to the HEP:

- (1) T17S, R8E, Section 21: S1/2 N1/2 (160 acres) E1/2 NW1/4 NE1/4 (20 acres) NE1/4 NE1/4 (40 acres)
- (2) T17S, R8E, Section 22: W1/2 (320 acres) W1/2 E1/2 (160 acres)
- (3) T17S, R8E, Section 27: All that part north of New Mexico Highway 70 except for the E1/2 E1/2 (approximately 192 acres)
- (4) T17S, R8E, Section 28: NE1/4 (160 acres) N1/2 SE1/4 (80 acres) SW1/4 SE1/4 (40 acres) W1/2 SE1/4 SE1/4 (20 acres)
- (5) T17S, R8E, Section 33: NW1/4 NE1/4 (40 acres) NW1/4 NE1/4 NE1/4 (10 acres) W1/2 SW1/4 NE1/4 (20 acres)

Prohibitions: The public must not enter the closure area. All uses within the closure area are prohibited. Exceptions to these prohibitions are noted below under Supplemental Information.

Supplemental Information: The following persons are exempt from the provisions of this Order:

1. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized medical, rescue or firefighting force engaged in fire, emergency, or law enforcement activities, or public utility employees engaged in emergency repairs.
2. Holloman AFB employees, contractors, or agents engaged in official duties.
3. Individuals operating within the scope of their official and legitimate governmental duties.
4. Parties who carry written approval signed by the 49th Wing commander allowing access to the described DoD managed lands.

Penalties: In accordance with 18 U.S.C. 1382, any person who violates this order shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

Effective date: This Order is effective August 14, 2025, and will remain in effect until August 14, 2027, or until such time as conditions allow for safe use of the lands.

Signed by:

JOHN T. ETHRIDGE, Colonel, USAF
Commander