

Operations at 13 rest areas suspended by state

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PHOENIX (AP) — The Arizona Department of Transportation has temporarily suspended operations at 13 rest areas across the state.

The closures are the result of ADOT's \$100 million budget shortfall that requires reductions in services, highway construction, maintenance and staff.

Five ADOT and more than a dozen non-ADOT rest areas along state highways remain open.

Three of the 13 now-closed rest areas are McGuireville, Meteor Crater and Parks, all within 40 miles of Flagstaff. The remaining closed rest areas are Bouse Wash, Canoa Ranch, Ehrenberg, Hassayampa, Haviland, Mazatzal, Mohawk, Salt River Canyon, San Simon and Sacaton.

The 13 closed rest areas are now completely inaccessible with all services shut down.

Other ADOT budget reducing plans include shutting down 12 Motor Vehicle Division field offices and deferring \$370 million in highway construction projects.

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