

File Code: 2670
Route To: File

Date: September 11, 2017

Subject: Forest Order No. 05-15-51-17-20 – Railroad Fire Closure

From: Dean A Gould, Forest Supervisor 

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing an Order closing the area, roads, and trails in the vicinity of the Railroad Fire on the Sierra National Forest.

On the afternoon of August 29, 2017, a fire began near Highway 41 and the Sugar Pine Railroad on the Bass Lake Ranger District. By September 4, 2017, the Railroad Fire had grown from its original size to over 9,790 acres and is 23% contained.

The purpose of this closure is to provide safety for the public and for the firefighters who are engaged in fire suppression and rehab efforts within the Railroad Fire Closure Area, shown on the attached map. This restriction is necessary for the purposes of ensuring public safety until the wildfire can be managed to protect the public. Closure of the fire area is necessary to help ensure that no one is injured within or near the active fire perimeter. All National Forest System roads and trails, within the active fire perimeter will be closed due to fire suppression and rehab activities that create a hazard to the public which includes the falling of hazard trees that were weakened by the fire and the construction and maintenance of fuel breaks. This closure will remain in effect until the fire is declared out.

Scoping regarding this temporary area and road closure involved discussions with cooperators including the incident management team and Madera County Sheriff's Office. I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) - prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety - and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.



Forest Order No. 05-15-51-17-20
Sierra National Forest
Railroad Fire Closure

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Sierra National Forest. This Order is effective from September 12, 2017, until the Railroad Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Railroad Fire Closure Area. The boundary of the Railroad Fire Closure Area begins at the intersection of the eastern edge of Highway 41 and the Sierra National Forest Boundary, then it continues east and south along the Sierra National Forest Boundary to its intersection with the northern edge of County Road 222, then it continues east along the northern edge of County Road 222 to its intersection with the southeastern edge of Forest Road No. 6S13, then it continues north along the southeastern edge of Forest Road No. 6S13 to its intersection with the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 6S11, then it continues north along the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 6S11 to its intersection with the southern edge of Road 632, then it continues northeast along the southern edge of Road 632 to its intersection with the western edge of Forest Road No. 6S40, then it continues southeast along the western edge of Forest Road No. 6S40 to its intersection with the northwestern edge of Forest Road No. 5S07, then it continues northeast along the northwestern edge of Forest Road No. 5S07 to its intersection with the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 5S04, then it continues north along the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 5S04 to its intersection with the eastern edge of Forest Trail No. 23E01, then it continues northwest along the eastern edge of Forest Trail No. 23E01 to its intersection with the Yosemite National Park Boundary, then it continues east and south along the Yosemite National Park Boundary to its intersection with the eastern edge of Highway 41, then it continues south along the eastern edge of Highway 41 to its intersection with the southwestern edge of Summit Road, then it continues northwest along the southwestern edge of Summit Road to its intersection with the southern edge of Chowchilla Mountain Road, then it continues west and south along the southern edge of Chowchilla Mountain Road to its intersection with Harris Ranch Road, then it continues east along the northern edge of Harris Ranch Road to its intersection with the northern edge of Forest Road No. 5S12 (Creel Road), then it continues east along the northern edge of Forest Road No. 5S12 (Creel Road) to its intersection with the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 5S16, then it continues south along the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 5S16 to its intersection with the northern edge of Worman Road, then it continues east along the northern edge of Worman Road to its intersection with the northern edge of Forest Road No. 6S24, then it continues east along the northern edge of Forest Road No. 6S24 to its intersection with the eastern edge of Highway 41, then it continues south along the eastern edge of Highway 41 back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.52(e).

2. Being on any National Forest System road within the Railroad Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.54(e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Railroad Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

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

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

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed in Clovis, California on September 11, 2017



DEAN A GOULD
Forest Supervisor

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