



File Code: 2670
Route To: File

Date: September 17, 2015

Subject: Forest Order – Nickowitz Fire Area, Road & Trail Closure

From: Merv George, Forest Supervisor, Six Rivers National Forest

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for decreasing the size of the Nickowitz Fire Area, Road & Trail Closure area including lifting the associated access prohibition on Forest roads surrounding Louse Camp administered by the Orleans Ranger District of the Six Rivers National Forest, as described in the attached Forest Order No.10-15-08. This Order supersedes Order No. 10-15-06, executed on August 22, 2015.

Order No. 10-15-08 is necessary to promote public safety and facilitate wildfire suppression for the Nickowitz Fire where it is actively burning and to keep the public out of the path of any blowups or fire runs. Decreasing the size of the closure area from its original closure area boundary and releasing the Forest road access prohibition described in Order No. 10-15-06 is prudent, as the Nickowitz Fire has shrunk in its geographic scope and is 80 percent contained. Wet weather conditions are such that the fire should continue to die out.

The closure area remains sufficient in size to accommodate any blowups or fire runs that cannot be predicted and pose a serious threat to individuals who are near an uncontrolled fire without constant radio communications regarding fire movement and spread. The closure order will protect the public from firefighting activities and provide safe travel for fire suppression activities within the closure area. In addition, there is limited road access to the area creating a potential for visitors and hunters to become trapped. Closure of the fire area is necessary to help ensure that no one is injured. Public use within and along roads and trails inside the Nickowitz Fire Area, Road & Trail Closure area constitutes an unacceptable safety risk to the public and wildland fire fighters. The Order will remain in effect until the Nickowitz Fire is declared out.

Local Native American tribes that may be affected by the closure have been notified of the temporary emergency closure order and offered the opportunity to provide resource advisory review and support where cultural resource values are at risk.

Scoping determined that anticipated effects of this proposed action would be administrative in nature. Minimal ground disturbance will occur, and no other additional impact on any natural resources will occur with the implementation of this proposed action.

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.



ORDER NO. 10-15-09
SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST
NICKOWITZ 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 Orleans Ranger District of the Six Rivers National Forest. This Order is effective from September 18, 2015, until the Nickowitz Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Nickowitz Fire Closure Area. The Nickowitz Fire Closure Area boundary begins at the intersection of the western edge of Forest Road No. 15 and the southern edge of Forest Road No. 13N01, then continues west along the southern edge of Forest Road No. 13N01 to its intersection with the eastern edge Forest Road No. 14N02, then continues southwest along the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 13N01 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 12N10, then continues north along the western edge of Forest Road No. 13N01 to its intersection with the Siskiyou Wilderness boundary, then continues north along the Siskiyou Wilderness boundary to its intersection with the western edge of Blue Creek, then continues northeast along the western edge of Blue Creek to its intersection with the southern boundary of Section 33, Township 14 North, Range 4 East, Humboldt Base and Meridian, then continues east along the southern edge of Sections 33, 34 and 35 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 15, back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
2. Being on any National Forest System road within the Nickowitz Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.54(e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Nickowitz 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 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 6 months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed in Eureka, California, this 17th day of September, 2015.



Merv George
Forest Supervisor
Six Rivers National Forest

This Order supersedes Order No. 10-15-06, dated August 22, 2015.

Six Rivers National Forest

Order No. 10-15-09

Temporary Area Closure

