Forest Service

Sierra National Forest

1600 Tollhouse Rd
Clovis, CA 93611

File Code: 2670
Route To: File

Date: August 13, 2015

Subject: Forest Order No. 15-15-08 – Rough Fire Closure

From: Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing a closure order for the Rough Fire on the Sierra National Forest.

On the afternoon of July 31, 2015 a lightning fire began in the Rough Creek drainage, near the Middle Fork of the Kings River, on the High Sierra Ranger District. By August 13, 2015, the Rough Fire had grown from its original size to over 9,948 acres. As of August 13, 2015 the Rough Fire is 0% contained and has grown to approximately 10,000 acres.

The purpose of this closure is to provide for public safety and facilitate fire suppression efforts. 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 fire perimeter. All National Forest System roads, within the burned area will be closed due to fire suppression activities that create a hazard to the public which includes the falling of hazard trees that were weakened by the fire and fuel breaks being constructed and maintained along those roads. This closure will remain in effect until the fire is fully suppressed.

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.

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST
Forest Order No. 15-15-08

Rough 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 August 14, 2015, until the Rough Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Rough Fire Closure Area. The boundary of the Rough Fire Closure Area begins at the Crown Valley Trailhead at the southeast intersection of Forest Road No. 11S07 and Forest Trail No. 28E42, then continues east along the southern edge of Forest Trail No. 28E42 to its intersection with Forest Trail No. 29E30, then continues along the southern edge of Forest Trail No. 29E30 to its intersection with the Kings Canyon National Park boundary, then continues south along the Sierra National Forest and Kings Canyon National Park boundary to its intersection with the southern edge of the Little Tehipite Valley and the Middle Fork of the Kings River, then continues down-stream on the northern edge of the Middle Fork of the Kings River to its intersection with Fox Canyon, then continues due north up Fox Canyon to its intersection with Wiesman Spring and Forest Road No. 11S07, then continues north along the western edge of Forest Road No. 11S07 to its intersection with the northern edge of Rancheria Creek, then continues due east across Forest Road No. 11S07 to its intersection with the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 11S07, then continues north along the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 11S07 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 Rough Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36CFR 261.54(e).

3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Rough 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 actor 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.

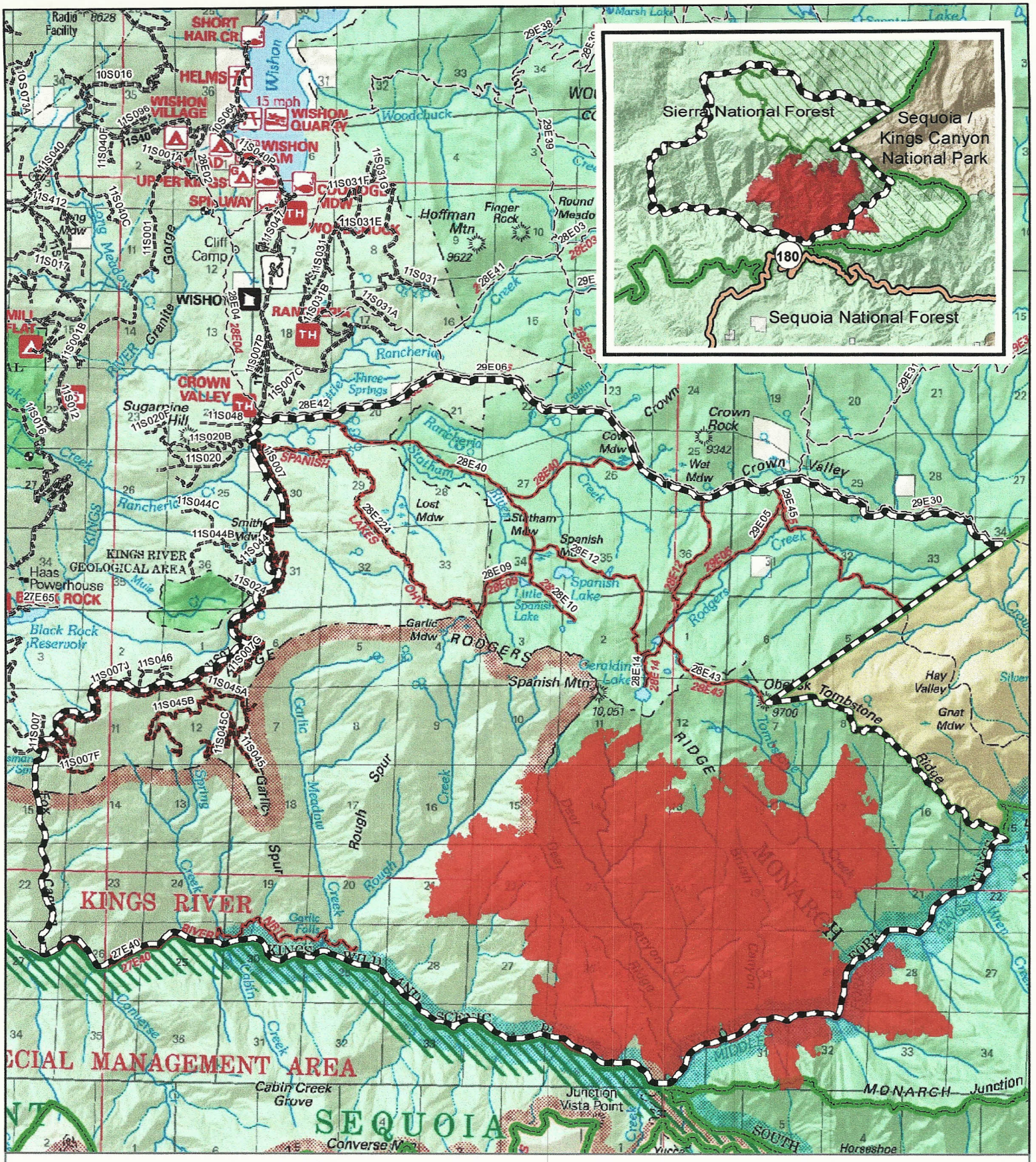
These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

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 August 13, 2015

Dean A. Gould

DEAN GOULD
Forest Supervisor



Rough Fire
Closure Map
Order # 15-15-08

N

1 0.5 0 1 2 Miles

1 0.5 0 1 2 3 Kilometers

1:100,000

- Closure area
- Closed Trails
- Closed Roads
- SNF trails
- Forest roads
- Roads
- Rough Fire
- Wilderness area boundaries
- SNF boundary
- NPS
- USFS