

CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

Seward Ranger District

Order No. 10-04-30-23-02

FOREST ORDER

Tenderfoot Area Special Closure

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public health and safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Seward Ranger District of the Chugach National Forest. This Order is in effect from November 29, 2022 through April 1, 2023.

Going into or being upon the Tenderfoot Closure Area as shown on the attached map. (36 CFR § 261.53(e))

Being on Tenderfoot Campground Road within the Tenderfoot Area Special Closure as shown on the attached map. (36CFR § 261.54(e))

The Closure Area Boundary begins on Tenderfoot Campground Road (RTE#31010270) at the gated entrance to Tenderfoot Campground, from there generally northwest to the high-water line of Summit Lake, then generally southwest turning southeast following the lake shore for approximately 2200 feet, then northeast approximately 1000 feet to Tenderfoot Creek, then north to the gated entrance of Tenderfoot Campground, as shown on the attached map.

Pursuant to Title 36 CFR § 261.50 (e) the following are exempt from this order:

1. Any person with a permit authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of any 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.

Executed in Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of November 2022.

/s/ Jeff Schramm
Jeff Schramm
Forest Supervisor
Chugach National Forest

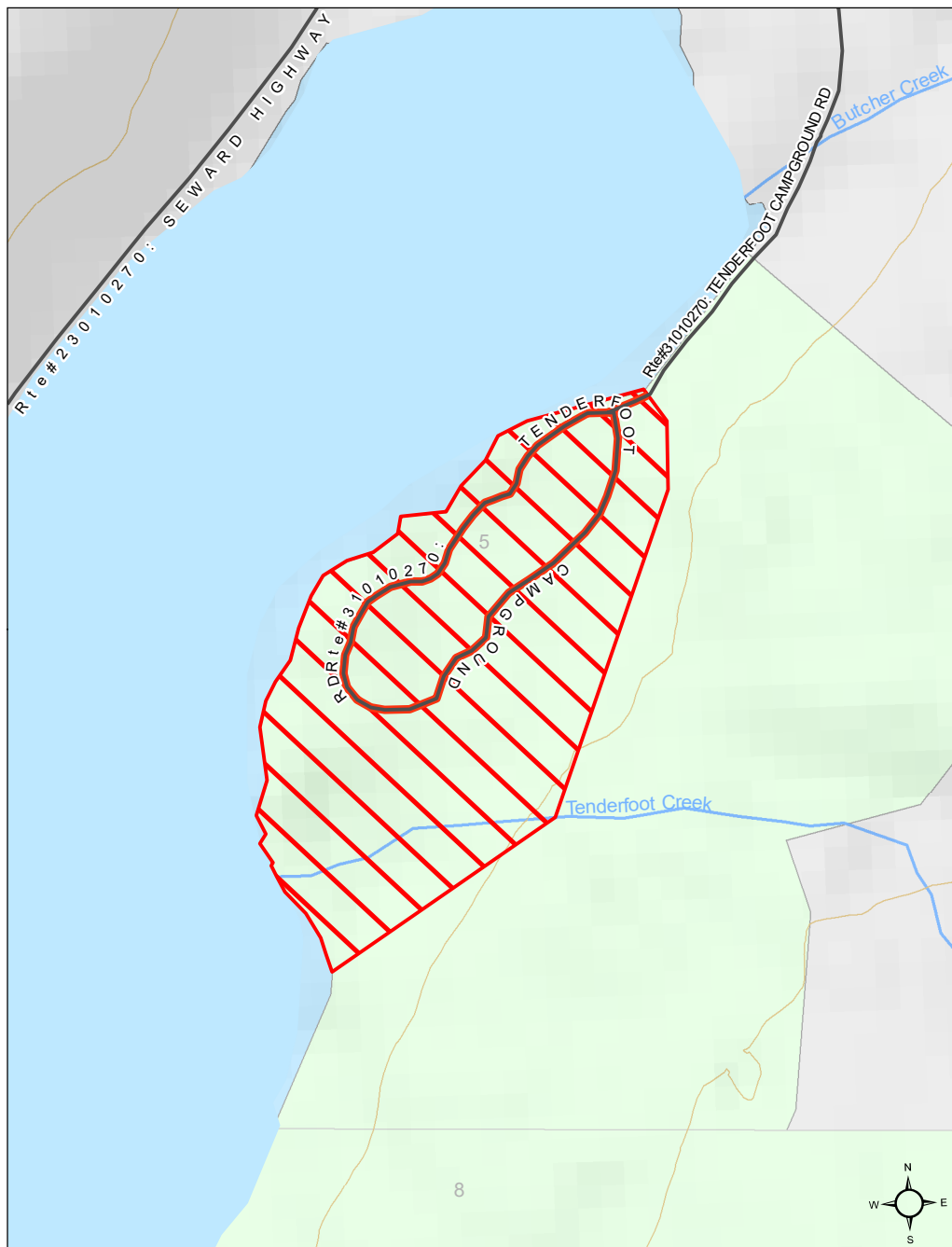
November 28, 2022
Date

A violation of these Prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for per individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months or both.
[16 U.S.C. 551, and 18 U.S.C.3559, 3571, and 3581]

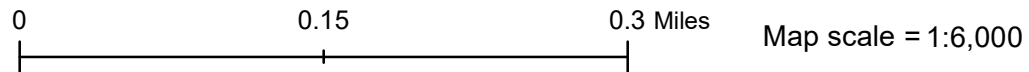
Chugach National Forest: Tenderfoot Campground Area Special Closure

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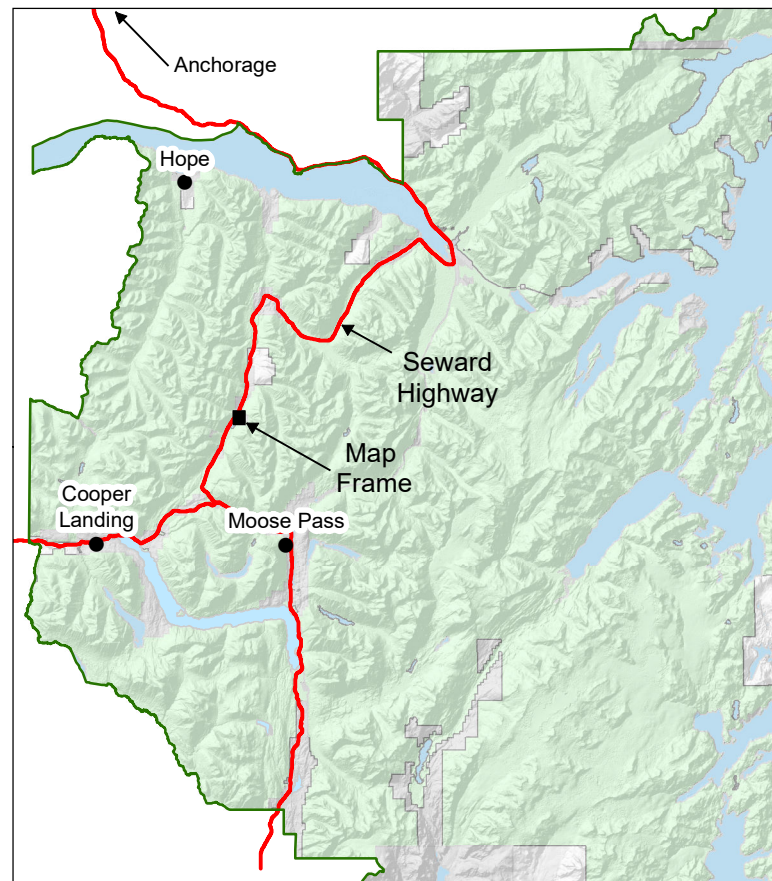
Attachment A



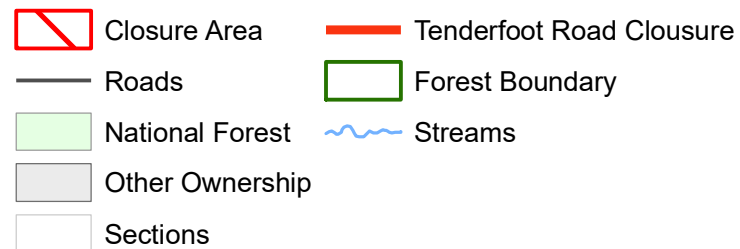
*This map is designed for determining closure areas and not intended for navigation.



Locator Map



Legend





File Code: 2610

Date: November 28, 2022

Route To: File

Subject: Forest Order – Tenderfoot Campground Beetle Mitigation Closure
From: Jeff E. Schramm – Forest Supervisor

I have decided to close the area of Tenderfoot Campground, and adjacent Forest Service land, for the safety of the public and workers. Wide-scale tree mortality is present in the area and poses an immediate hazard to the health and safety of forest users in the area. This closure will remain in effect until the removal of hazard trees can occur. It is anticipated that wide-scale tree removal will occur in the fall and winter of 2022. Tree fallers and heavy equipment will be in use at the campground and adjacent lands. Non-motorized winter recreation activities normally take place at Tenderfoot Campground and necessitate this area closure to ensure public safety. The Closure Area Boundary begins on Tenderfoot Campground Road (RTE#31010270) at the gated entrance to Tenderfoot Campground, from there generally northwest to the high-water line of Summit Lake, then generally southwest turning southeast following the lake shore for approximately 2200 feet, then northeast approximately 1000 feet to Tenderfoot Creek, then north to the gated entrance of Tenderfoot Campground, as shown on the attached map.

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment 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. Scoping included reaching out to the concessionaire, local Nordic ski/hiking group in Cooper Landing to coordinate our impacts to their season, new releases in local papers and internal conversations. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. No CRIA is needed. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

A spruce beetle outbreak on the Kenai Peninsula has led to a large number of dead or infested spruce trees in and around the campground. Forest health surveys show over 85% of spruce trees in the area are impacted by the outbreak. These trees are susceptible to dropping limbs and falling, creating overhead hazards to people and structures. Spruce beetles are a naturally occurring pest that given the right environmental conditions can kill trees across a wide geographical area.

As of now, the beetles are responsible for approximately 950,000 acres of dead and dying spruce in southcentral Alaska. Trees that have succumbed to beetle infestation can begin falling soon after mortality, creating overhead hazards for both people and infrastructure. The work being done in the Tenderfoot area helps reduce overall fire and safety hazards on the Forest. Heavy equipment operations and falling trees during treatment pose a risk to anyone recreating in the area. This closure serves to mitigate that risk.

/s/ Jeff Schramm

Jeff Schramm
Forest Supervisor
Chugach National Forest

