



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST
ORDER #06-09-22-02

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 CFR § 261.50(a), the following acts are prohibited on National Forest System lands within the boundaries of the Olympic National Forest as shown and described in Exhibits A & B. This Order is effective May 24, 2022, through May 24, 2024, unless rescinded earlier.

PROHIBITIONS:

1. Camping for a total of 21 days per calendar year on National Forest System lands. [36 CFR § 261.58(a)]
2. Camping for longer than 14 consecutive days at the same location within a developed recreation site. [36 CFR § 261.58(a)]

CLOSURE AREA DESCRIPTION:

All National Forest System lands, including all developed recreation sites, within the Olympic National Forest. See Exhibits A & B.

EXEMPTIONS:

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

1. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire-fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
2. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation Order), specifically exempting them from this order.

This prohibition is in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

Violations of this prohibition are 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 U.S.C. § 551; 18 U.S.C. §§ 3551, 3559, 3571, and 3581).

Executed in Olympia, Washington, this 23 day of May 2022.

Kelly D. Lawrence
Forest Supervisor
Olympic National Forest

EXHIBIT B

km

OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES

Big Creek Campground

Brown Creek Campground

Campbell Tree Grove Campground

Coho Campground

Collins Campground

Dungeness Forks Campground

Falls Creek Campground

Falls View Campground

Gatton Creek Campground

Hamma Hamma Campground

Klahanie Campground

Klahowya Campground

LeBar Horse Camp

Lena Creek Campground

Littleton Horse Camp

Seal Rock Campground

Willaby Campground



May 16, 2022

FROM: FOREST SUPERVISOR – Kelly D. Lawrence *KML*

TO: FILE

SUBJECT: OCCUPANCY AND USE STAY ORDER # 06-09-22-02

FILE CODE: 1950

BACKGROUND AND NEED:

The Forest Service has historically established stay limits when: resource damage is occurring, visitors cannot use facilities because of monopolization of a few, or persons are using sites as season-long residences. (FSM 2334.33) Stay prohibitions also respond to a need to protect visitor health and safety and the natural resources of the National Forest. This order reduces the levels of impacts to resources and addresses the public's expectation that visitation and camping on National Forest System (NFS) lands is temporary, and there is a reasonable likelihood that favorable locations are, or will soon be, available for others to use.

Resource damage - Monitoring has shown that long term use areas are often located in sensitive resource areas such as riparian zones. Limiting visitor stays will reduce the risk and/or degree of common impacts such as: a) water contamination from improperly disposed of toilet paper and wastes, b) increased turbidity from soil erosion, c) proliferation of user created trails in the vicinity of established unmanaged campsites, d) soil compaction and damage from loss of vegetation cover, loss of organic litter and exposure, e) vegetative damage, f) trash and other contaminants (such as oil, etc.), and g) abandoned personal property.

Even when visitors leave one area and camp in another location on the forest, the resource damage often continues. Visitors who have camped for extended periods tend to not dispose of garbage and human waste properly. Rather, they tend to leave their garbage and improperly disposed fecal materials and move to another site. Limiting the duration of camping encourages visitors to return home and dispose of waste material in an appropriate manner.

Providing for public safety and resource protection requires increased law enforcement resources when extended or residential use spreads across NFS lands. Extended occupancy becomes a complex mission for Law Enforcement as activities that are more associated with municipal police work are spread out across large land expanses with a mix of public and private ownership.

Visitor safety - Trash and spilled or discarded food may attract wildlife to campsites and result in dangerous human/wildlife interactions. Additionally, in dispersed sites, onsite disposal of human fecal material presents both a nuisance and a public health hazard. Both garbage and human waste also leave odors that detract from Forest visitors' experiences. Visitors and Forest staff are exposed to health and safety risks and water quality degradation from human waste that has not been properly disposed of. Diseases caused by water/soil contamination from sewage or contaminated water include various types of dysentery, hepatitis A, cholera, giardia, e-coli, cryptosporidium and others.

KML

Forest Employee safety - Long-term users tend to spread out across an area, adding more and more personal items and trash to Forest lands, and they often do not remove these items upon their departure. This situation can result in dangerous and expensive efforts to remove contamination/hazardous materials after the occupants leave. This debris often contains human waste, hazardous materials, needles and drug paraphernalia and other items hazardous to Forest Service employees who are tasked with removing the debris.

Forest facility design and vandalism - National Forest recreation facilities are neither designed nor maintained to provide for the constant use of extended stays, or long-term residencies; such use exceeds typical maintenance and staffing budgets. It is also documented that increased vandalism and site modification occurs to existing recreation facilities in such situations.

Monopolization of popular/favored use areas – Long-term use at popular or desirable areas is limiting the opportunities for fair and equitable use of NFS lands by other Forest users. The popularity of the Forest as a recreation area requires that managers effectively manage visitor use while protecting natural resources.

Expectations of other forest users; a natural experience for all forest users - We have anecdotal reports and documented law enforcement actions indicating incidents of people staying as long as 3-4 months in favored locations. Other Forest users can feel uncomfortable being near long-term encampments due to the site ownership and protection exhibited by the long-term campers. Limiting visitor stays will create a fair and equitable opportunity for all visitors and create the temporary camping atmosphere most Forest visitors have come to expect from a visit to NFS lands.

Overall, the goal of this Forest Order is to create a more equitable sharing of popular use areas (sustainability and stewardship), reduce user competition, prevent long-term occupancy of Federal lands, and reduce resource damage by dispersing visitor use. Additional benefits include reduced facility damage, reduced dumping and concerns about hazardous materials, and increased employee and visitor safety.

PUBLIC SCOPING:

The use restrictions included in this order are long standing management practices for the Olympic National Forest. Scoping has included forest employees, partners, and other neighboring land management agencies. To date, there has been no public comment regarding the need to adjust this management practice. This is a renewal of a previous order issued in 2020 with no negative public comments.

REASONS FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDING THE ACTION:

Based on a review of the proposed order and consultation with District and Forest resource specialists, 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 C.F.R. § 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.

CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The closures will have no impacts on civil rights as they will apply to all individuals. No one group or person will be affected more than another group or person.

1602

AUTHORIZATIONS FOR FOREST PERMIT HOLDERS:

This Forest Order includes an exemption for persons with a Forest Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order (Form FS-7700-48). Authorization under this exemption will be provided only if I or my delegate determine that the risk to personal health and safety is reasonable considering the circumstances of the request. We also may require appropriate personal protective equipment and other necessary safety measures. The Deputy Forest Supervisor is delegated the authority to issue permits within the closure area.

SUMMARY:

Based on my review, I have determined that this Forest Order is compliant with the Forest Order process and should be authorized.



Kelly D. Lawrence
Forest Supervisor
Olympic National Forest

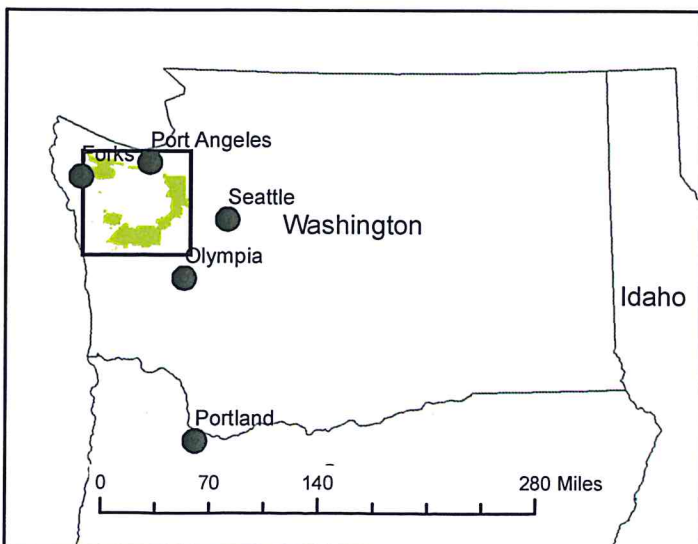
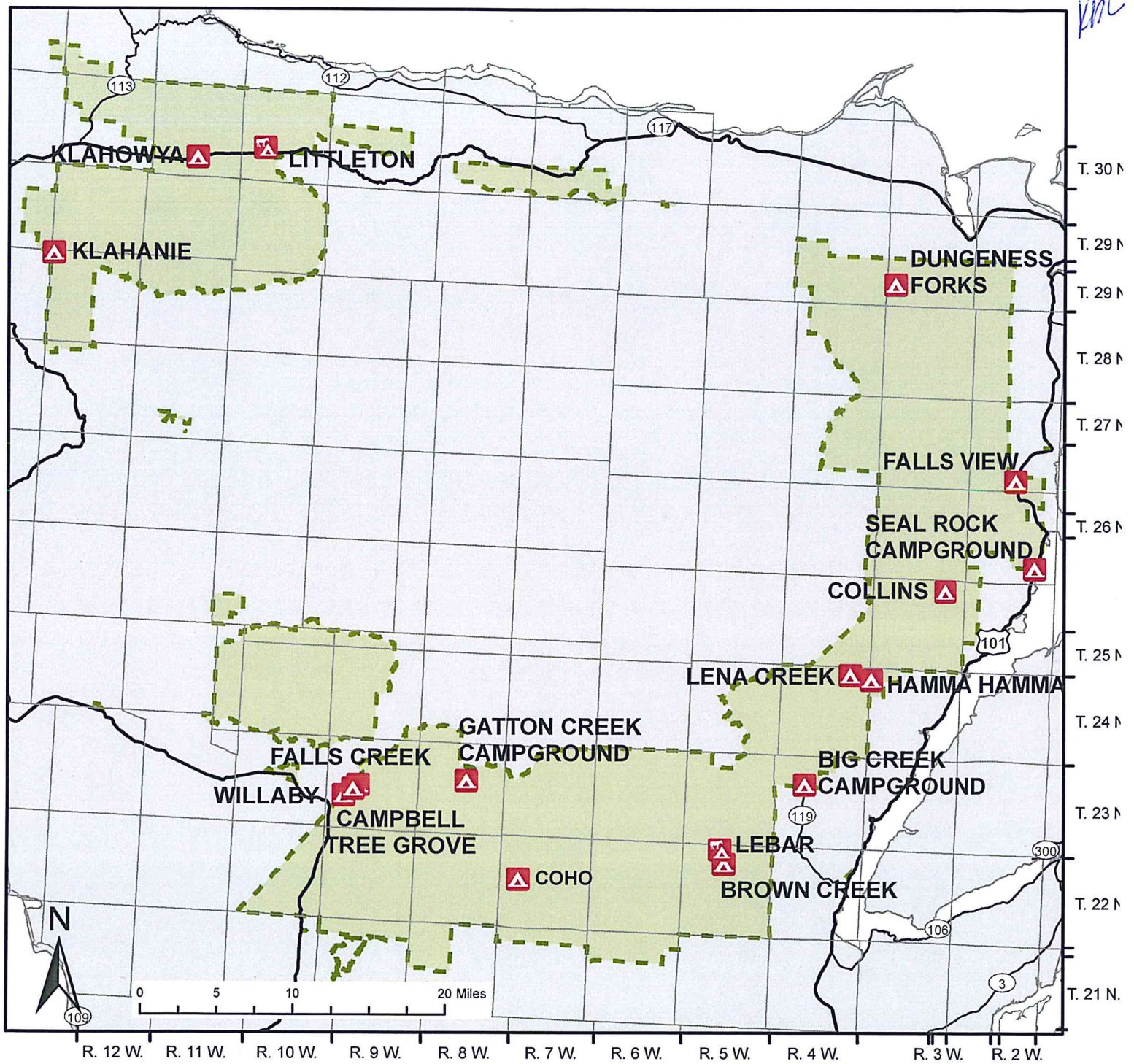
Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan

Prohibition Objective: This Order is intended to facilitate visitor management by restricting the length of stay on national forest lands. To ensure use of national forest lands complies with intended management and limits resource damage, a limitation on length of occupancy is required.

Public Notification Plan: Information associated with the closure will be made available to the public through media releases, partner organizations, and at Forest Service offices. The affected area will be posted with signs indicating the trail is closed to public entry.

Enforcement Plan:

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Official</u>	<u>Date</u>
Prepare proposed order	Recreation Staff	05/05/22
Review proposed order (Law Enforcement)	Patrol Captain	
Approve proposed order	Forest Supervisor	5/23/22 KRL
Post order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51	District Staff Officer and Staff	
Prepare news release for local media describing the order and management objectives	Public Affairs Officer	
District staff will be responsible for the management and enforcement of this closure. Any enforcement actions will be within normal policies and procedures established by the LEI Patrol Captain for the zone.	District Staff	Ongoing



Occupancy and Use- Stay Limits Exhibit A

Order Number 06-09-22-02
Olympic National Forest

Legend



CAMPGROUND



HORSE CAMP

USA Major Highways

State Highway and Route

US Highway



USFS Admin Boundary



Wilderness



PNW Regional Boundary

