

ORDER NO. 15-04
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST
SHOOTING PROHIBITION AREA
OCCUPANCY AND USE

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following act is prohibited within the Santa Lucia Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest. This Order is effective from September 10, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

Discharging a firearm in the Shooting Prohibition Area as described in Exhibit A and shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.58(m).

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.
3. Persons hunting during the open hunting season as specified by the laws of the State of California, and possessing a valid California hunting license, may discharge a firearm at a legal game bird or mammal.

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

A violation of this prohibition 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.

Done at Goleta, California this 9th day of September 2015.



Robert A. Baird
Forest Supervisor
Los Padres National Forest

Date: September 10, 2015

Subject: ORDER NO. 15-04
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST
SHOOTING PROHIBITION AREA

To: File

From: Robert A. Baird, Forest Supervisor

The attached Forest Order was developed in response to continued hazards related to target shooting as described below. Target shooting continues to be hazardous in the East and West Cuesta Ridges, Cerro Alto Ridge, Lopez Canyon and Hi Mountain areas. Shooting continues to be a threat to human life and wildlife in nearby campgrounds and in general forest areas and on trails. There is also damage to Government property, private property, and the Cuesta Botanical Area. There is also an accumulation of litter in the areas where target shooting has taken place. This is also where the endangered California condors frequent and the sensitive peregrine falcons nest. This Order is important because of the intensity of use in this area of the Forest, immediately adjacent to Cal Poly University and the large urban front of San Luis Obispo.

Efforts to curtail the inappropriate shooting in the area including increased patrol have continued to assist with the management of target shooting. Increased enforcement is still needed as the safety issue continues. Signs have been posted in the areas described below and have not reduced the damage. Vegetation in the Botanical Area has been destroyed, individuals have been nearly missed by shooting, and vandalism of facilities continues (signs destroyed, facilities damaged). Multiple complaints from the public of near misses have been reported along with requests that the Forest take action to restrict shooting. Forest Law Enforcement officers have also experienced near misses caused by shooting from people in the area. Hunting has not posed the same indiscriminate hazard because the minor hunting in the area is always at a specific target, not just blanket shooting anywhere.

I have determined that enforcement of this closure will protect the public by providing for public safety and prevention environmental damage.

The Forest Order will restrict target shooting on National Forest Lands in the following area:

From the intersection of Highway 41 and the Los Padres National Forest boundary in Township 29 S., Range 11 E., Section 1; To follow the northern end of the Forest boundary southeast to FR15E11 (San Luis Obispo County- Hi Mountain Rd).

Follow the west edge of the Garcia Wilderness boundary to the southern edge of the Forest boundary at Trout Creek.

Continue along the south edge of the Forest boundary northwest, back to Highway 41, then east on Highway 41 back to the starting point in Section 1.

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.

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EXHIBIT A

The boundary of the Shooting Prohibition Area begins at the intersection of State Highway 41 and the Los Padres National Forest boundary located in Township 29 South, Range 11 East, Section 1, Mt Diablo Meridian, then continues south following the Los Padres National Forest boundary to its intersection with the Garcia OHV Route (OHV Route No. 15E11), then continues southeast following the Garcia Wilderness boundary to its intersection with Trout Creek, then continues west along the Los Padres National Forest boundary to its intersection with Section 18 and 19, Township 31 South, Range 14 East, then continues north along the Los Padres National Forest boundary back to the starting point.



Shooting Prohibition Area

Order No. 15-04

 = Shooting Prohibited

1:158,400 1 inch = 2.5 miles

