Order No. 01-16-02
AREA CLOSURE
ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
OCCUPANCY AND USE

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a), and to provide for public safety, the following Act is prohibited within the Los Angeles River Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest. This Order is effective from January 26, 2016 through January 25, 2017.

> Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Eaton Canyon Closure Area, as described in Exhibit A and shown in Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.53(e).

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.

This prohibition is in addition to the general prohibitions contained 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, 3751, and 3581.

Done at Arcadia, California, this 25th day of January, 2016.

JEFFREY VAIL
Forest Supervisor
Angeles National Forest

ORDER No. 01-16-02
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ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

Exhibit A

The boundary of the Eaton Canyon Closure Area begins at the intersection of the Altadena Crest Trail and the user-created Lower Eaton Canyon Falls Trail, at the southwest corner of the southeast ¼ of the southeast ¼ of Section 2, Township 1 North, Range 12 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBBM), then continues westerly along the Altadena Crest Trail for approximately 1700 feet, then continues north along the ridgeline for approximately 1950 feet to its intersection with the water tank located south-southeast of Mt. Lowe Peak, then continues easterly along the drainage to its intersection with the western bank of Eaton Canyon Creek, then continues northerly along the western bank of Eaton Canyon Creek to its intersection with Upper Eaton Canyon Falls, then continues northeasterly along the western edge of Upper Eaton Canyon Falls to its intersection with the western bank of Eaton Canyon Creek, then continues easterly along the northern bank of Eaton Canyon Creek to its intersection with the eastern section line of Section 2, Township 1 North, Range 12 West, SBBM, then continues south along the section line 1000 feet, then continues west along the ridgeline to its intersection with the eastern edge of the user-created Lower Eaton Canyon Falls Trail, then continues north and westerly along the eastern edge of the user-created Lower Eaton Canyon Falls, then continues northwesterly and then southeasterly along the pool at the base of Lower Eaton Canyon Falls to its intersection with the western edge of the user-created Lower Eaton Canyon Falls Trail, then continues south and easterly along the western edge of the user-created Lower Eaton Canyon Falls Trail, back to the starting point.

United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Angeles National Forest SO | Angeles National Forest
701 N. Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, CA 91006
(626)574-5350

File Code: 1510

Date: January 25, 2016

Memorandum for the Record

From: Jeffrey Vail, Forest Supervisor

RE: Forest Order 01-16-02

I have decided to issue a Forest Order closing a portion of the Eaton Canyon Falls area. This closure will allow the Forest to address on-going safety issues in the area through public education. The waterfalls in Eaton Canyon have been used by the public for years. There is no infrastructure (National Forest System trails or roads) for the public to use to access the falls.

In recent years, there have been a number of accidents associated with public visitation of a waterfall located south of Mt. Lowe Peak, east of the water tank (commonly called the "upper falls"). Access to the upper falls is steep and can be dangerous, and some hikers get lost, tumble off the narrow ridges and rocky outcroppings and slip and fall into the rushing water. Between 2011 and 2013, there have been many rescues (approximately one-half involving helicopter rescue) and several fatalities at or near this waterfall. As such, I have determined that usage of and access to the upper falls area poses a health and safety risk to members of the public as well as First Responders to the emergencies.

I have concluded that his 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.

Scoping was held with interested stakeholders, including but not limited to Los Angeles County Supervisor District 5 Office, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles County Fire and Forestry Department, Pasadena Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Search & Rescue, and Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Public notice of implementation will be provided through news media releases, public meetings, Forest Service websites and Forest Service office and field postings.

United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Pacific Southwest Region

Angeles National Forest
Los Angeles River Ranger District
12371 N. Little Tujunga Cyn Rd.
San Fernando, CA 91342

File Code: 1510/1950 **Date:** January 25, 2016
Route To:

Subject: Forest Order No. 01-16-02 – Criteria for Written Authorization for Access
From: Jeffrey Vail, Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest
To: Project File

On January 14, 2016, the incumbent ANF Forest Supervisor signed Forest Order No. 01-16-02 restricting access to a portion of Eaton Canyon (between the lower and upper falls) on the Los Angeles River Ranger District to address safety issues resulting from public use. That Order contained an exemption for persons with a permit from the Forest Service authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission. This memorandum establishes the criteria that must be, met before I, or my delegate, will issue an Authorization for Entry allowing individuals or entities to access National Forest System lands within the Eaton Canyon Closure Area.

To receive permission to access the Eaton Canyon Closure Area, the Request for Entry form must be completed, signed and submitted to the District Ranger, Los Angeles River Ranger District, at least 96 hours prior to the requested entry date. The following additional criteria must be met:

1. The applicant must possess the necessary equipment and training to safely descend Eaton Canyon through the Closure Area;

2. The applicant must agree to restrict travel to within 30 feet of the high water line while in the Closure Area;

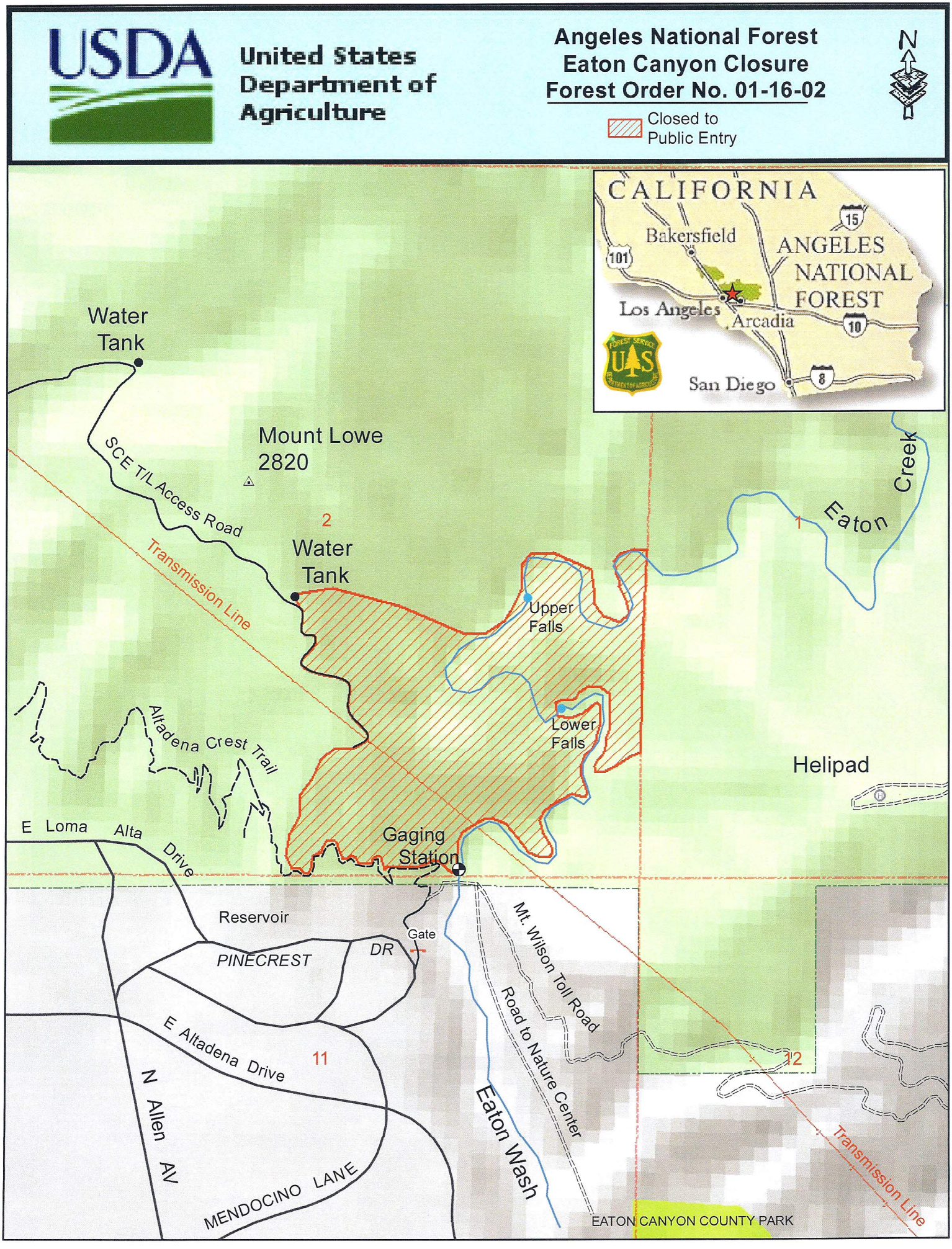
3. The applicant must understand and accept the risks of technical canyoneering, including his or her responsibility to ensure safe travel through the Closure Area;

4. The applicant must restrict his/her group to 12 persons maximum;

5. The applicant must submit the Request for Entry to the District Ranger, Los Angeles River Ranger District in-person, by email or fax at least 96 hours before the anticipated entry date. It is recommended that a follow-up phone call to the District Ranger occur to ensure that the application has been received;

6. I or my delegate must determine that the risk to personal health and safety is reasonable considering the circumstances of the request.

The Authorization for Entry will allow access to the area specified in the Request for Entry. For further information regarding these criteria, or to receive the Request for Entry form, contact: District Ranger, Los Angeles River Ranger District, Angeles National Forest, 12371 North Little Tujunga Canyon Road, San Fernando, CA 91342. I hereby delegate the authority to sign the Authorization for Entry form to the District Ranger, Los Angeles River Ranger District.


USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Angeles National Forest
Eaton Canyon Closure
Forest Order No. 01-16-02
Closed to Public Entry
N
CALIFORNIA
Bakersfield
ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
Los Angeles
Arcadia
San Diego
15
101
10
8
Water Tank
Mount Lowe 2820
SCE T/L Access Road
Transmission Line
2
Water Tank
Upper Falls
Lower Falls
Eaton Creek
1
Altadena Crest Trail
Helipad
E Loma Alta Drive
Gaging Station
Reservoir
Gate
PINECREST
DR
Mt. Wilson Toll Road
Road to Nature Center
E Altadena Drive
11
12
N Allen AV
Eaton Wash
MENDOCINO LANE
EATON CANYON COUNTY PARK
Transmission Line