



File Code: 2670
Route To: File

Date: August 18, 2015

Subject: Forest Order No. 15-15-10 - Willow Fire Closure

From: Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor 

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

On the afternoon of July 25, 2015 a fire began near the end of Willow Canyon Road at Willow Creek on the Bass Lake Ranger District. By August 12, 2015, the Willow Fire had grown from its original size to over 5,700 acres. As of August 17, 2015 the Willow Fire is 100% contained and is approximately 5,702 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 while the wildfire is 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. 15-15-10
Willow 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 19, 2015, until the Willow Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Willow Fire Closure Area. The boundary of the Willow Fire Closure Area, begins at the southeast intersection of Forest Road No. 6S42 and Forest Road No. 7S02, then continues east along the southern edge of Forest Road No. 7S02 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 8S09, then continues south along the western edge of Forest Road No. 8S09 to its intersection with Pitcher Creek, then continues west along Pitcher Creek to its intersection with Forest Road No. 7S09, then continues north along the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 7S09 to its intersection with the South Fork of Willow Creek, then continues north along the North Fork of Willow Creek to its intersection with Sand Creek, then continues north along Sand Creek to its starting point, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
2. Being on any National Forest System road within the Willow Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36CFR 261.54(e).

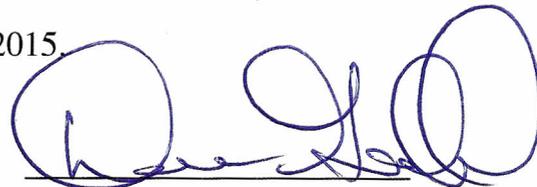
Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

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.

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

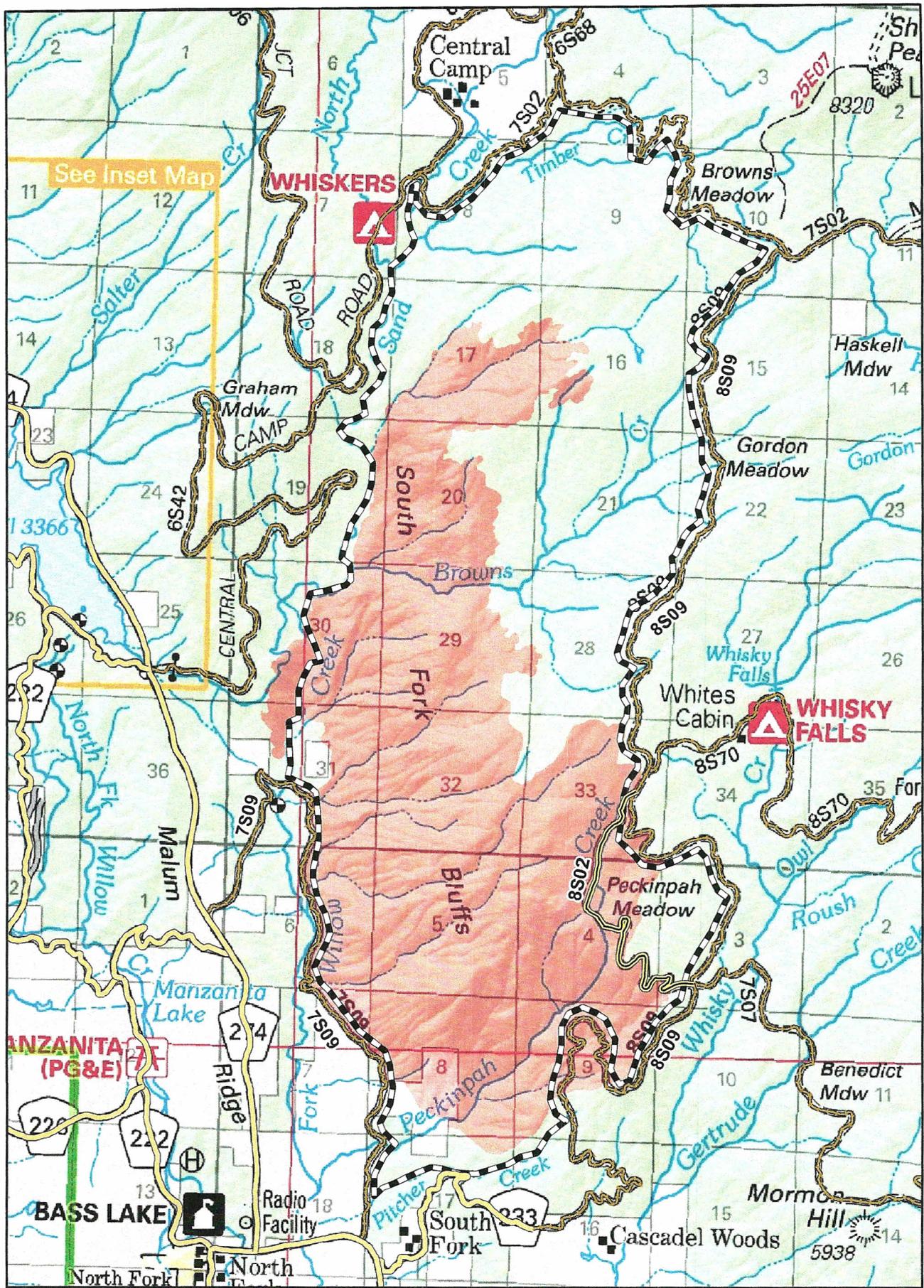
A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed in Clovis, California on August 18, 2015.

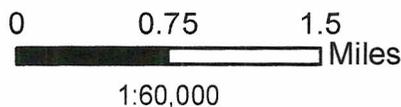


DEAN GOULD
Forest Supervisor

This Order supersedes Order No. 15-15-07, dated August 1, 2015.



**Willow Fire
Closure Map**
Order # 15-15-10



- Closure Area
- Closed Road
- County Roads
- Forest Roads
- SNF Boundary
- USFS
- Other Ownership
- Willow Fire