

File Code: 2670
Route To: File

Date: September 26, 2016

Subject: Forest Order No. 05-15-52-16-13 – Crown Fire Closure

From: Dean A Gould, Forest Supervisor 

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing a trail and area closure Order on the Sierra National Forest.

On September 15, 2016, a lightning fire was discovered in the Crown Valley area of the John Muir Wilderness on the High Sierra Ranger District. The fire has currently burned 61 acres within the footprint of the 2008 Tehipite Fire. Fire behavior has been low to moderate as it consumes the dead fuel left behind after the 2008 fire. Due to the abundant standing dead trees left after the 2008 fire, and the hazard they present to firefighters working in the area, firefighters are using the existing trail system to contain the fire east of Crown Meadow.

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 until the wildfire can be managed to protect the public. Closure of Forest Trail Nos. 29E30 and 29E31 and the fire area is necessary to help ensure that no one is injured within or near the fire perimeter. In addition to the risk presented by the fire, fire suppression activities create a hazard to the public, including the falling of hazard trees along the trail system. This closure will remain in effect until the fire is declared out. Tehipite Valley will remain accessible via Forest Trail No. 29E45. Forest Trail No. 29E06 will remain open.

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. 05-15-52-16-13
Crown 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 September 27, 2016, until the Crown Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Crown Fire Closure Area. The boundary of the Crown Fire Closure Area begins just east of the intersection of Forest Trail No. 29E06 and Forest Trail No. 29E30, then continues east along Forest Trail No. 29E30 to its intersection with the Sierra National Forest boundary, then continues north along the Sierra National Forest boundary to the section line north of Section 13, then continues west along the north section line until just east of its intersection with Forest Trail No. 29E06, then runs south to the east of but not including Forest Trail No. 29E06, back to the starting point on Forest Trail No. 29E30 just east of Forest Trail No. 29E06, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
2. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Crown Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. Forest Trails No. 29E45 (access to Tehipite Valley) and 29E06 remain open. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

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 actor 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.

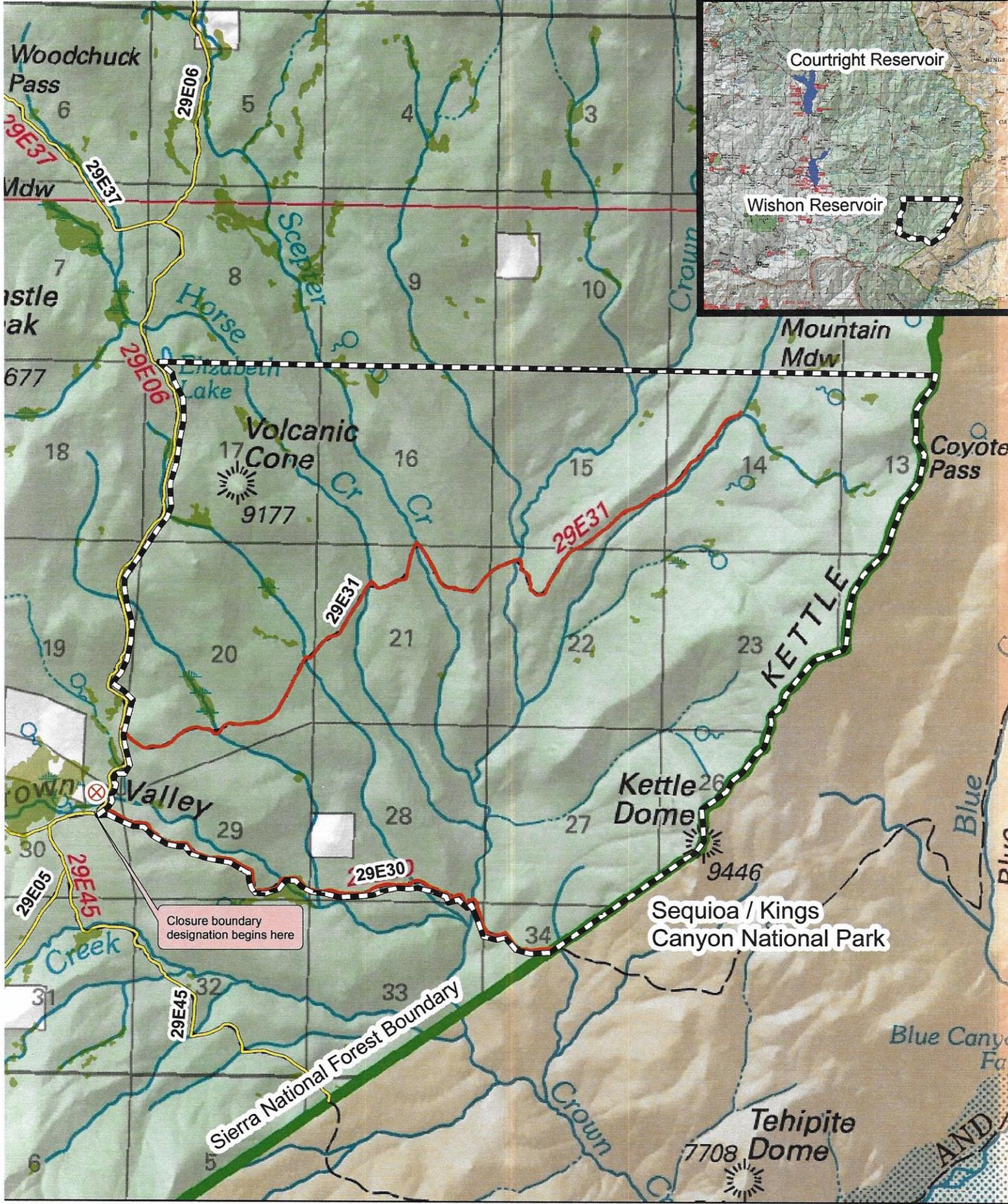
These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

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 September 26, 2016

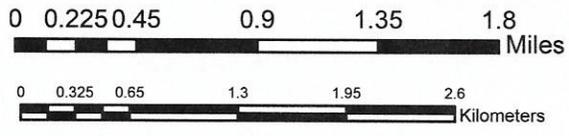


DEAN A. GOULD
Forest Supervisor



Crown Fire Closure Map

1:45,000



-  Fire Closure Area 9-26-2016
-  Closed Trails
-  SNF Hiking Trails
-  Fire Origination Point