USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Sierra National Forest
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611
559-297-0706
TDD: 559-322-0425
FAX: 559-294-4809

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Date: September 28, 2016

Subject: Forest Order No. 05-15-00-16-15 – Fire Restrictions

From: Dean A Gould, Forest Supervisor

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing temporary fire restrictions on the Sierra National Forest.

Criteria for activation of prohibitions through Forest Orders are based on National Fire Danger Rating System indices and fuel moisture conditions. Current conditions reflect a range of Burning Indices from 38 to 124, and a thousand hour fuel moisture of less than 14%, with a predicted stable weather pattern and drying trend. Per the current Sierra National Forest Restriction and Emergency Closure Plan, these conditions meet the criteria for entry into restrictions.

Line Officers as well as Forest Fire Management and Prevention Staff have assessed Recreation Sites and Wilderness Areas on the Forest. Those areas that lack flammable material or have had flammable materials removed to prevent fire ignitions from escaping into the wildland are listed on Exhibits A and B.

As of July 22, 2016 flammable materials have been removed and the threat of fire ignition's escaping into the wildland have been reduced at Rocky Point Day Use, Pine Slope Day Use, Lakeside Day Use, Denver Church Day Use, Little Denver Church Day Use and Recreation Point Campground. Hence, these locations have been added to Exhibit B making them exempt from applicable prohibitions listed in the Order.

As of August 23, 2016 flammable materials have been removed and the threat of fire ignition's escaping into the wildland have been reduced at Lupine Cedar Campground. This location has been added to the list in Exhibit B making it exempt from applicable prohibitions listed in the Order.

As of September 26, 2016 flammable materials have been removed and the threat of fire ignition's escaping into the wildland have been reduced at Black Rock Campground. This location has been added to the list in Exhibit B making it exempt from applicable prohibitions listed in the Order.

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. 05-15-00-16-15
Fire Restrictions

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following acts are prohibited within the Sierra National Forest. This Order is effective from September 29, 2016, through the end of the official 2016 fire season.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except within the Designated Wilderness Areas listed in Exhibit A or the Designated Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.52(a).

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or within the Designated Wilderness Areas listed in Exhibit A or the Designated Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.52(d).

3. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame. 36 CFR 261.52(i).

4. Operating an internal combustion engine, except on a National Forest System road or trail. 36 CFR 261.52(h).

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 firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

2. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission. Persons with a valid California Campfire Permit are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, persons with a valid California Campfire Permit may use a portable lantern or stove using contained gas, or pressurized liquid fuel with a fuel shut off valve.

3. Persons with a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service for a recreation residence on the Sierra National Forest may use a campfire or stove fire at their recreation residence.

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

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than $5000 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 29, 2016.

DEAN A GOULD
Forest Supervisor

This Order supersedes Order No. 05-15-00-16-12, dated August 25, 2016.

FOREST ORDER 05-15-00-16-15
Sierra National Forest
Exhibit A – Designated Wilderness Areas

BASS LAKE RANGER DISTRICT
Ansel Adams Wilderness

HIGH SIERRA RANGER DISTRICT
John Muir Wilderness
Kaiser Wilderness
Dinkey Lakes Wilderness
Monarch Wilderness
Ansel Adams Wilderness

FOREST ORDER 05-15-00-16-15
Sierra National Forest
Exhibit B – Designated Recreation Sites

BASS LAKE RANGER DISTRICT		
Big Sandy Campground	Granite Creek Campground	Rocky Point Day Use
Bowler Campground	Greys Mountain Campground	Soda Springs Campground
Chilkoot Campground	Kelty Meadow Campground	Soquel Campground
Clover Meadow	Lakeside Day Use	Summerdale Campground
Denver Church Day Use	Little Denver Church Day Use	Sweetwater Campground
Dirt Flat Campground	Little Jackass Campground	Texas Flat Campground
Dry Gulch Campground	Lone Sequoia Campground	Upper Chiquito Campground
Falls Beach Day Use	Lower Chiquito Campground	Whiskers Campground
Forks Campground	Lupine Cedar Campground	Whisky Falls Campground
Fresno Dome Campground	Nelder Grove Campground	Willow Cove Day Use
Gaggs Campground	Pine Slope Day Use	Wishon Point Campground
	Recreation Point CG	

HIGH SIERRA RANGER DISTRICT		
Badger Flat Campground	Dinkey Creek Campground	Portal Forebay Campground
Badger Flat Group CG	Dorabelle Campground	Rancheria Campground
Bear Cove Day Use	Dowville Day Use	Sample Meadow CG
Billy Creek Lower CG	Gravel Flat Campground	Sawmill Flat Campground
Billy Creek Upper CG	Jackass Meadow Campground	Swanson Meadow CG
Black Rock CG	Kinnikinnick Campground	Trapper Springs Campground
Bolsillo Campground	Kirch Flat Campground	Upper Kings Group CG
Bretz Mill Campground	Kirch Flat Group CG	Vermillion Campground
Buck Meadow CG	Lilypad Campground	Voyager Rock Campground
Catavee Campground	Marmot Rock Campground	Ward Lake Campground
College Campground	Midge Creek Group CG	West Kaiser Campground
Deer Creek Campground	Mono Creek Campground	Wishon Village
	Mono Hotsprings Campground	Haslett Basin Traditional Use Area