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File Code: 1950 **Date:** July 19 , 2017
Route To:

Subject: Temporary Fire Restrictions in the High Fire Hazard Area, STF-16-2017-05

To: Project File

From: Scott Tangenberg, Acting Forest Supervisor SRT

The High Fire Hazard Area of the Stanislaus National Forest is located in Calaveras, Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties, California. The Forest's Fire Management Reference System (Appendix A, Wildland Fire Management Program Implementation) and Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5110.4 provide authority and guidance on implementing actions that reduce the risk of certain ignition sources during periods of high fire risk.

Criteria for activating prohibitions in the High Fire Hazard Area through a forest order is based on National Fire Danger Rating System indices and fuel moisture conditions. Indices that can trigger restrictions are: Burning Index is 60 or greater for three consecutive days with a predicted stable or upward trend; dead fuel moistures for thousand-hour time lag fuels are less than 14%; and Energy Release Component greater than 70.

The Forest currently meets the criteria for activating the High Fire Hazard fire restrictions using the Mt. Elizabeth weather station as a representative site. Combination of the data above threshold levels for multiple days along with upward trending data indicate a need for restricting potential fire causing activities of persons in the High Fire Hazard Area.

These restrictions are believed to be the most immediate and effective method to reduce the potential for loss of life and property, and to protect the physical, biological, and cultural resources of the forest from fire. In response to the situation described, the Forest Service will issue a temporary Forest Order prohibiting the following activities in the High Fire Hazard Area:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except in the Developed Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit C. 36 CFR 261.52(a).

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, within a Developed Recreation Site listed in Exhibit C, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. 36 CFR 261.52(d).

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

These actions are determined to be admistrative in nature. Minimal ground disturbance will occur, and no other additional impact on any natural resources will occur with the implementation of this proposed action. The public notification of these restrictions will occur via a press announcement published by the local newspapers and postings in public places of

National Forest facilities. The Forest Service will install signs along roads entering the High Fire Hazard Area to alert the public to these fire restrictions.

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.

These restrictions are temporary and will be in effect from July 20, 2017, until the end of the official fire season. For further information regarding this decision, contact: Harold Updike, Fire Management Officer, Stanislaus National Forest, 19777 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA. (209) 532-3671.

cc: Heidi Rieck, Patrol Captain

Forest Order No. STF-16-2017-05
Temporary Fire Restrictions
High Fire Hazard Area
Stanislaus National Forest

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 High Fire Hazard Area of the Stanislaus National Forest, as shown on Exhibit A and described in Exhibit B. This Order is effective from July 20, 2017 through the end of the official 2017 fire season.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except in the Developed Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit C. 36 CFR 261.52(a).

2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, within a Developed Recreation Site listed in Exhibit C, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. 36 CFR 261.52(d).

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

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. 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 stove or lantern using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel on National Forest System lands within the High Hazard Area.

3. Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

4. Persons with a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service for a recreation residence on National Forest System lands within the High Hazard Area are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, persons with a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service for a recreation residence on National Forest System lands within the High Hazard Area 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 $5,000.00 for an individual or $10,000.00 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 Sonora California, this 19th day of July, 2017.

Scott Tangenberg
Acting Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest

Forest Order No. STF-16-2017-05
Stanislaus National Forest
Temporary Fire Restrictions
High Fire Hazard Area

Exhibit C
Developed Recreation Sites

Mi Wok Ranger District
Fraser Flat Campground
River Ranch Campground
Riverside Day Use Area
North Fork Day Use Area
Sand Bar Flat Campground

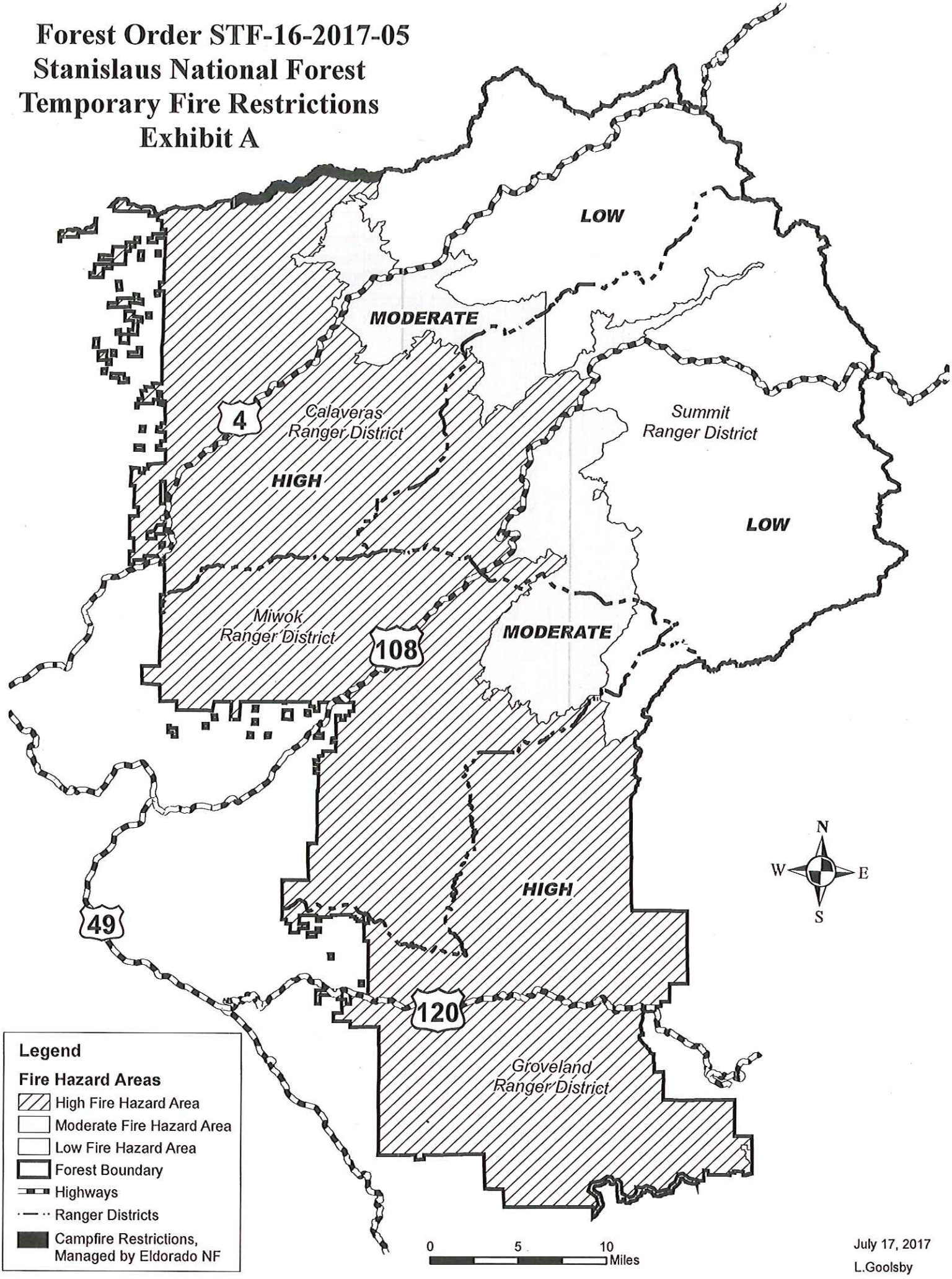
Calaveras Ranger District
Waka Luu Hep Yoo Campground
Sourgrass Day Use Area

Summit Ranger District
Cascade Campground
Beardsley Lake Day Use Area
North Beardsley Campground

Groveland Ranger District
Carlon Day Use Area
Dimond O Campground
Lost Claim Campground
Lumsden Campground
Lumsden Bridge Campground
Rainbow Pool Day Use Area
Sweetwater Campground
The Pines Campground
Peach Growers Tract
Cherry Valley Campground
Middlefork Day Use Area

Forest Order No. STF-16-2017-05
Stanislaus National Forest
Temporary Fire Restrictions

Exhibit B

The Stanislaus National Forest High Fire Hazard Area boundary begins at a point on the west boundary of the Mokelumne Wilderness .5 miles south of the east end of Salt Spring Reservoir, then continues due south across the SW ¼ of Section 6 and the NW ¼ of Section 7, T7N R17E, to its intersection with Forest Road No. 7N16, then continues 2 miles west along Forest Road No. 7N16 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 7N09, then continues 11 miles west along Forest Road No. 7N09 to its intersection with Forest Road 7N23, then continues 6 miles south along Forest Road No. 7N23 to its intersection with Highway 4, then continues due southeast to Forest Road No. 6N17, then continues 3 miles south along Forest Road No. 6N17 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 5N14, then continues 19 miles east along Forest Road No. 5N14 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 6N05, then continues 2 miles north along Forest Road No. 6N05 to Basin Creek, then continues 1 mile east along Basin Creek to the confluence with the Middle Fork Stanislaus River, then continues 4 miles northeast along the Middle Fork Stanislaus River to Donnell Lake, then continues 1.5 miles east along the south shore of Donnell Lake to Niagara Creek, then continues 1.5 miles south and east along Niagara Creek to its intersection with Highway 108, then continues 15 miles south along Highway 108 to Forest Road No. 4N26 (Crabtree Road), then continues 7 miles east along Forest Road No. 4N26 (Crabtree Road) to its intersection with Forest Road No. 4N33, then continues 8 miles southwest along Forest Road No. 4N33 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 3N01, then continues 15 miles east and then south along Forest Road No. 3N01 to its intersection with Reynolds Creek, then continues 0.6 mile due east to the Emigrant Wilderness boundary, then continues 6 miles south and east along the Emigrant Wilderness boundary to the Stanislaus National Forest boundary, then continues along the boundary of the Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest to the boundary of the Sierra National Forest and the Stanislaus National Forest, then continues west, north and east along the boundary of the Stanislaus National Forest to the SE 1/4 of Section 12, T7N R15E, then continues due south 0.5 mile, then continues east and northeast paralleling the Stanislaus National Forest northern boundary and the southern edge of Salt Springs Reservoir at a distance of 0.5 mile back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map.

Forest Order STF-16-2017-05
Stanislaus National Forest
Temporary Fire Restrictions
Exhibit A