



File Code: 2670

Date: June 12, 2018

Route To: File

Subject: Forest Order No. 05-15-00-18-03 – Recreation Site and Road Closure

From: Dean A Gould, Forest Supervisor 

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing an Order closing specified recreation sites and roads on the Bass Lake and High Sierra Ranger Districts of the Sierra National Forest as described in the Order and shown on the attached maps. The purpose of this Forest Order is to provide for public safety due the unprecedented number of hazard trees present, winter storm damage to roads, and the associated risks of both.

In January and February 2017 the Sierra National Forest received heavy rain, snow, and winds that resulted in significant road damage and fallen trees. Although the Forest is addressing damage to National Forest System roads where possible, the roads included in this Order must be closed in the interim to protect the public from dangerous conditions including sink holes, mud and rock slides, cracked pavement, undercut pavement, sloughing, complete washouts and fallen trees. Closure of these road segments will be accomplished with a gate or barricades.

Additionally, due to the extremely large volume of tree mortality in the areas addressed by the Order, the use of specified developed recreation sites will be prohibited to protect the public from the high risk of hazards associated with recreating in direct proximity of dead trees, which have the potential to fall, leading to property damage and/or injury. Salvage logging and tree falling operations will be taking place to improve these hazardous conditions. These efforts will remove weakened trees in and adjacent to recreation sites, preventing conditions from rapidly worsening over the next three to five years as more snags deteriorate and fall.

This Order supersedes Recreation Site and Road Closure Order No. 05-15-00-18-02, dated June 5, 2018. As of May 24th, 2018 and due to the passage of time and changing conditions, the hazards listed above are now present in Swanson Meadow and Big Sandy Campgrounds, making them unsafe for public use. Therefore, it is necessary to close these areas to the public. Additionally, as of May 25, 2018 due to the hazards listed above being mitigated Forest Road No. 08S009 (Peckinpah Road) and Fresno Dome, Deer Creek and Lower Billy Creek Campgrounds as well as Bear Cover and Dowville Day Use areas have been removed from the Order and are now open for public use.

Scoping efforts included discussions with California Land Management who concurred with the above mentioned hazards and closures, as well as the status of those areas being re-opened. 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.

Forest Order No. 05-15-00-18-03  
Sierra National Forest  
Recreation Site and Road 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 June 13, 2018, through June 12, 2019.

1. Entering or using the Developed Recreation Sites listed below and shown on Exhibits A, B and C.

Bass Lake Ranger District  
Crane Valley Group Campground  
Jerseydale Campground  
Rock Creek Campground  
Placer Campground  
Mammoth Pool Campground  
Ross Cabin  
Soda Springs Campground  
Greys Mountain Campground  
Texas Flat Campground  
Upper Chiquito Campground  
Lower Chiquito Campground  
Sweetwater Campground  
Windy Point Day Use  
Big Sandy Campground

High Sierra Ranger District  
Swanson Meadow Campground

36 CFR 261.58(b).

2. Being on the National Forest System roads listed below and shown on Exhibits B and D.

Bass Lake Ranger District  
Forest Road No. 7S024, beginning at the intersection of County Road No. 426 and continuing east to its intersection with Forest Road No. 7S066IA, as shown on Exhibit B.



High Sierra Ranger District

Forest Road No. 07S005 (Stump Springs Road), from mile post 0.0, then continuing north to mile post 10.5, as shown on Exhibit D.

36 CFR 261.54(e).


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

1. Persons with a valid permit from the Forest Service 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.
3. Owners or lessees of private land to the extent necessary to gain access to their land.
4. Persons with a contract from the Forest Service authorizing work within the closed Developed Recreation Sites and on the closed roads, to the extent authorized by the contract.

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.

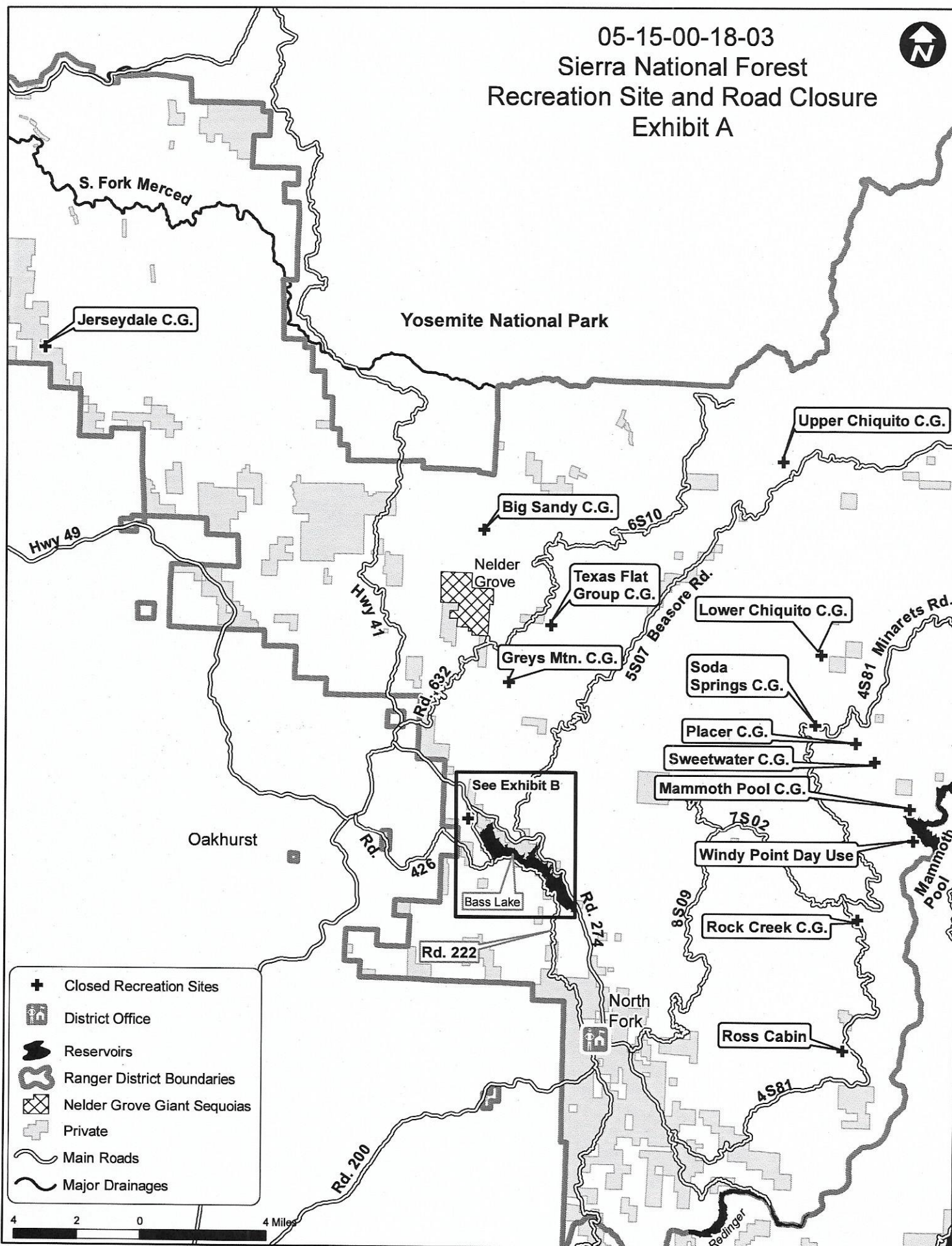
Executed in Clovis, California on June 12, 2018.



DEAN A GOULD  
Forest Supervisor

This Order supersedes Order No. 05-15-00-18-02, dated June 5, 2018.

05-15-00-18-03  
Sierra National Forest  
Recreation Site and Road Closure  
Exhibit A



- + Closed Recreation Sites
- District Office
- Reservoirs
- Ranger District Boundaries
- Nelder Grove Giant Sequoias
- Private
- Main Roads
- Major Drainages

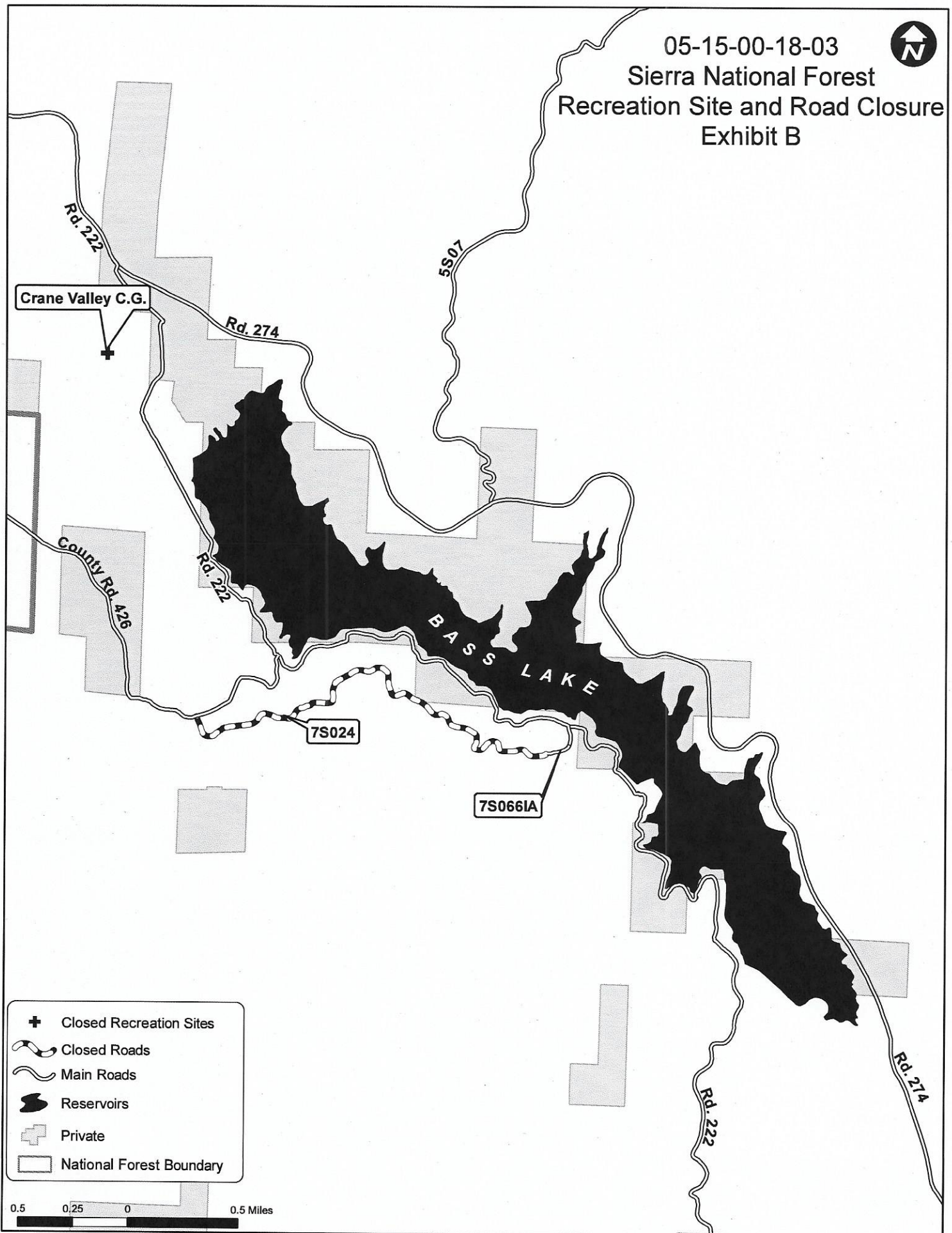
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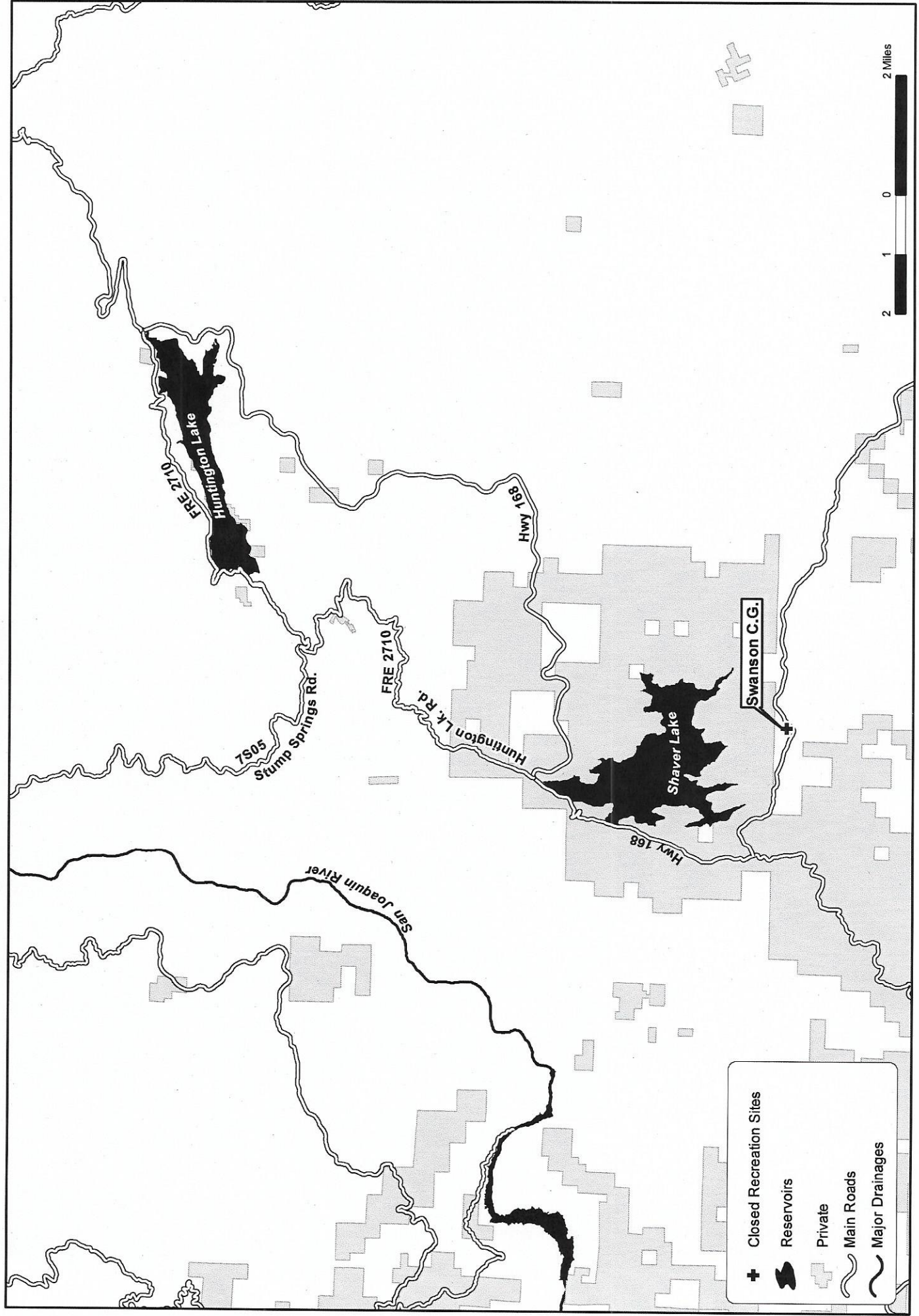


Sierra National Forest  
Recreation Site and Road Closure  
Exhibit B



05-15-00-18-03

Sierra National Forest  
Recreation Site and Road Closure  
Exhibit C





05-15-00-18-03  
Sierra National Forest  
Recreation Site and Road Closure  
Exhibit D

