

Forest Order No. 05-15-51-18-11  
Sierra National Forest  
Lions Fire Trail Closures

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(b), and to provide for public safety, the following act is prohibited within the Sierra National Forest. This Order is effective from July 14, 2018, until the Lions Fire is declared out.

Being on the National Forest System trails listed below, as shown on the attached map.

Forest Trail No. 26E01 (Mammoth Trail) beginning at its intersection with the East Fork of Cargyle Creek, then continuing northeast to its intersection with the Sierra National Forest Boundary.

Forest Trail No. 26E56 (Upper French Trail) beginning at its intersection with Forest Trail No. 26E01, then continuing south and east to its terminus near Stairway Creek.

Forest Trail No. 26E46 (Lion Point Trail) beginning at its intersection with the Sierra National Forest Boundary south of Summit Meadow, then continuing south to its terminus near Lion Point.

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 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.

This prohibition is in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of this prohibition 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 July 13, 2018.



DEAN A GOULD  
Forest Supervisor

This Order supersedes Order No. 05-15-00-18-08, dated June 27, 2018.



**File Code:** 2670  
**Route To:** File

**Date:** July 13, 2018

**Subject:** Forest Order No. 05-15-51-18-11 – Lions Fire Trail Closures

**From:** Dean A Gould, Forest Supervisor

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing an Order closing trails in the vicinity of the Lions Fire on the Sierra National Forest.

On June 1, 2018, a fire began near Lion Point on the Bass Lake Ranger District. That fire is called the Lions Fire. By June 26, 2018, the Lions Fire was 4,064 acres in size and 70% contained. On June 27, 2018, I issued Forest Order No. 05-15-00-18-08 to close additional trails that accessed the area of the Lions Fire due the fire activity being observed at that time. As of July 13, 2018, the Lions Fire is 4,064 acres in size and 90% contained.

This Order will supersede Forest Order No. 05-15-00-18-08 to. The purpose of this closure is to provide safety for the public and for the firefighters who are engaged in fire suppression and rehabilitation efforts on and in the vicinity of the Lions Fire. This revised Order also makes the closure less intrusive to public access while still providing for public safety. Due to decreased fire activity and a higher containment percentage the section of Forest Trail No. 26E01 (Mammoth Trail) between the Mammoth Trailhead and the East Fork of Cargyle Creek, as well as Forest Trail No. 26E14 (Junction Butte Trail) will now be opened to public use. This restriction is necessary for the purposes of ensuring public safety until the wildfire is declared out. Closure of the trails shown on the attached map is necessary to help ensure that no one is injured within or near the active fire perimeter. The higher elevations and remoteness of the Lions Fire make it difficult to locate hikers in a timely manner if they were to hike on any of the Forest Trails listed in the Order and shown on the attached map. There continues to be active burning of green islands of fuels on the fire with unpredictable wind direction changes at higher elevations that further contribute to the need to close trails to protect the public. Though 90% contained, not all areas within the perimeter of the Lions Fires have been extinguished, and the Lions Fire continues to pose a potential threat to anyone who may be travelling through this area, which is only accessible by foot. This closure will remain in effect until the fire is declared out.

Scoping regarding this temporary trail closure involved discussions with cooperators including the incident management team who had no objections. 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.





Air quality and smoke forecasts are available at <https://www.wildlandfiresmoke.net/>. To see smoke impacts in the area, visit webcams at [www.mammothmountain.com](http://www.mammothmountain.com). For more information, see <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/news/5850/> or call 760-582-5203.

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