



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Stanislaus National Forest

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File Code: 1010  
Route To: (1950)

Date: July 27, 2018

Subject: Ferguson Fire Closure Area, Forest Order No. STF-16-2018-07

To: Project Files

From: Jason Kuiken, Forest Supervisor

On July 13, 2018, the Ferguson Fire started in the Merced River Canyon in the Sierra National Forest and within 12 days has grown over 38,500 acres or 60 square miles. On July 20, 2018, the Ferguson Fire jumped the Merced River and progressed north and began burning on the Groveland District of Stanislaus National Forest. Currently, crews and firefighters with heavy equipment and driving emergency vehicles are working in active fire areas. Active fire, hazardous standing trees, risk from rock fall and slides, and road conditions provide clear indicators the fire area is dangerous and the public should be restricted from entering.

Firefighting efforts must continue unimpeded and the public should be restricted from entering the area. Road damage caused by previous storms further compounds these hazardous conditions causing congestion and limited egress. These hazards clearly indicate that a closure area must be put into place to protect the public. This closure is based on the current and expected fire behavior and will be in effect until September 30, 2018 or until replaced or rescinded.

This order includes an exemption for persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission. The criteria for granting written authorization for access to the Ferguson Fire Closure Area will be as follows:

1. The applicant must provide a reasonable explanation for the need to access the closed area.
2. The applicant must possess personal protective equipment appropriate for the dangers present in the area to which access is requested.
3. The applicant must understand and accept the risk of entering the closed area.
4. I or my delegate must determine that the risk to personal health and safety is reasonable considering the circumstances of the request.

Written authorization may allow access only to a circumscribed portion of the closure area. If I am unavailable at the time a request is received, I hereby grant the Groveland District Ranger, or in their absence the designated Acting District Ranger, the authority to sign any written authorizations for entry into the closed area.



I have determined that anticipated effects of this proposal action would be administrative 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. Fire Command Staff, firefighters, and emergency response agencies were consulted for scoping and it was determined a closure area is the best means to protect the public. The Forest Service will install signs and post notices to alert the public to these temporary prohibitions.

I have also 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. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(f), this decision is not subject to administrative appeal. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure and the procedures for legal notice and opportunity to comment (36 CFR 214.4) do not apply to this project. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

Questions or comments can be forwarded to the Groveland District Ranger Station at 24545 Hwy 120, Groveland CA 95321 or you may call (209) 962-7825 during regular business hours for additional information.

**Forest Order No. STF-16-2018-07**  
**Ferguson Fire Closure 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 Groveland Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. This Order is effective from July 28, 2018, through September 30, 2018.

1. Going into or being upon any National Forest System land within the Ferguson Fire Closure Area as shown on the map and described in Exhibit A. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
2. Being on any National Forest System road within the Ferguson Fire Closure Area as shown on the map and described in Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.54(e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Ferguson Fire Closure Area as shown on the map and described in Exhibit C. 36 CFR 261.55(a)

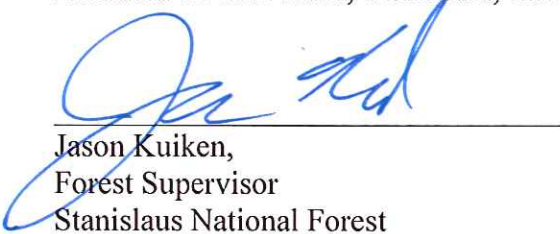
Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

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 of fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

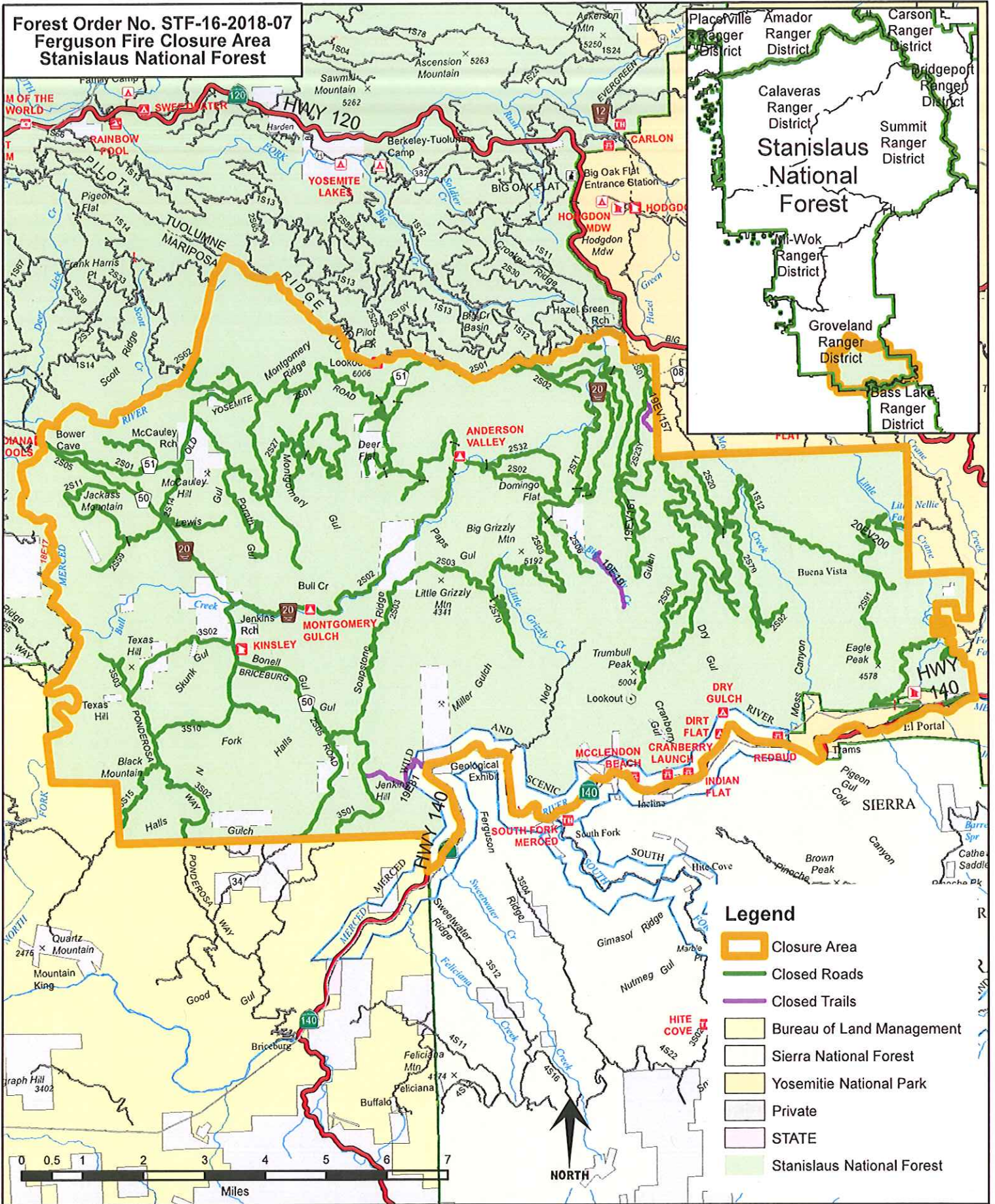
These prohibitions are in addition to the General prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

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 Groveland, California, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2018

  
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Jason Kuiken,  
Forest Supervisor  
Stanislaus National Forest

**Forest Order No. STF-16-2018-07  
Ferguson Fire Closure Area  
Stanislaus National Forest**



**Stanislaus National Forest**

Map showing the boundaries of various Ranger Districts within the Stanislaus National Forest:

- Placeville Ranger District
- Amador Ranger District
- Carson E. Ranger District
- Calaveras Ranger District
- Bridgport Ranger District
- Summit Ranger District
- Groveland Ranger District
- Bass Lake Ranger District
- Will-Wok Ranger District

**Forest Order No. STF-16-2018-07  
Ferguson Fire Closure Area  
Stanislaus National Forest**

**Exhibit A**

The Ferguson Fire Closure Area boundary begins at the intersection of Stanislaus National Forest and the Merced River, then continues north and west along the Stanislaus National Forest boundary to its intersection with the North Fork of the Merced River, then continues north along the North Fork of the Merced River North to its intersection with the boundary of Tuolumne County and Mariposa County, then continues east along the Tuolumne County and Mariposa County boundary to its intersection with Forest Road No. 2S04, then continues east along Forest Road No. 2S04 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 2S01, then continues east along Forest Road No. 2S01 to its intersection with the Stanislaus National Forest boundary and the Yosemite National Park Boundary, then continues south along the Stanislaus National Forest boundary and the Yosemite National Park boundary to its intersection with the Merced River, then continues west along the Merced River back to the starting point.

**Order No. STF-16-2018-07  
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**Exhibit B**

1. Forest Road No. 1S12 from its intersection with Forest Road No.2S01, east to its terminus near Little Nellie Falls.
2. Forest Road No. 2S04 from its intersection with Forest Road No.2S01 west to its terminus at Pilot Peak.
3. Forest Road No. 2S84 from the Stanislaus National Forest Boundary west to its terminus at Forest Road No. 1S12.
4. Forest Road No. 2S20 from the Yosemite National Park Boundary south to its terminus at its second intersection with Forest Road No.1S12.
5. Forest Road No. 2S05 and all of its spur roads from its intersection with Forest Road No. 2S01 south to the Stanislaus National Forest Boundary.
6. Forest Road No.2S02, (Bull Creek Road) from its intersection with Forest Road 2S05, east then north to Forest Road No.2S01.
7. Forest Road No. 2S03 from its intersection with Forest Road No.2S05 east to its terminus at Forest Road No. 2S02.
8. Forest Road No. 2S13 from its intersection with Forest Road No.2S01 south to its terminus at Forest Road No.2S02 in Anderson Flat.
9. Forest Road No. 2S01, (Yosemite Coulterville Road) from its starting point at Forest Road 2S05 east to its terminus at the Yosemite National Park Boundary.

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**Exhibit C**

1. Forest Trail No. 19EV157 from Forest Road No. 2S01 to its terminus
2. Forest Trail No. 19E19 from Forest Road No. 2S34Y to its terminus.
3. Forest Trail No. 19E81 (Jenkins Hill Trail) from its intersection with State Highway 140 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 3S01.