

Forest Order No. 05-15-51-18-15
Sierra National Forest
Ferguson 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 on the Bass Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest. This Order is effective from December 20, 2018, through, December 19, 2020.

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

- a. Hites Cove Trail (Forest Trail No. 21E07) beginning at its intersection with private land south of Highway 140, then continuing southeast to its intersection with the Savage Lundy Trail (Forest Trail No. 19E05).
- b. Hites Cove OHV Trail (Forest Trail No. 19E200) beginning at its intersection with the Hites Cove Trail (Forest Trail No. 21E07), then continuing due south to its intersection with Forest Road No. 3S02.
- c. Savage Lundy Trail (Forest Trail No. 19E05) beginning at its intersection with the Hites Cove Trail (Forest Trail No. 21E07), then continuing due south and east to its intersection with Forest Road No. 3S02.

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 acts 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. Persons with a contract or volunteer agreement from the Forest Service authorizing work on the closed trails are exempt from the prohibitions listed above to the extent authorized by the contract or agreement.

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 6 months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed in Clovis, California, on December 19, 2018.



DEAN A. GOULD
Forest Supervisor

File Code: 2670
Route To: File

Date: December 19, 2018

Subject: Forest Order No. 05-15-51-18-15 – Ferguson Fire Trail Closures

From: Dean A Gould, Forest Supervisor 

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing a temporary trail closure order on trail numbers 21E07 (Hite's Cove Trail), 19E05 (Savage Lundy Trail) and 19E200 (Hite's Cove OHV Trail) on the Bass Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest.

The purpose of this Order is to provide public safety due to the risk of landslide and rock fall associated with the moderate to high intensity fire effects from the 2018 Ferguson Fire on the soil and vegetation surrounding these trails. Within the Ferguson Fire Burned Area Emergency Repair Assessment-Geology Report (dated August 27, 2018), these trails were listed as having a high risk of rock fall onto and near these trails due to the unstable nature of soils due to the lack of vegetation on the surrounding hillsides.

Monitoring of these trails by Forest Service Staff since the containment of the Ferguson Fire and after subsequent storm passage has documented several sections of these trails where rocks have dislodged from uphill slopes and either crossed and/or impacted the trail itself. Some sections have had minor landslides cover the trail tread with man-made rock trail walls being impacted.

Scoping efforts include discussions with user groups (OHV and hikers) who typically utilize these trails. They understand the above mentioned concerns and have requested that as weather begins to dry evaluations be made to determine the needs for re-opening these trails as soon as safely possible.

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.



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