

Forest Order No. 05-15-00-19-08
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 July 27, 2019, through July 27, 2020.

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
Upper Chiquito Campground
Lower Chiquito Campground
Big Sandy Campground

High Sierra Ranger District
Rancheria Campground
McKinley Grove Picnic Site
Badger Flat Campground
Dinkey Fisherman Picnic Site

36 CFR 261.58(b).

2. Being on the National Forest System road listed below and shown on Exhibit D and E.

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.

Forest Road No. 9S10, at mile post 6.5 (Lower Cow Creek Bridge), as shown on Exhibit E.

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 road, 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 July 26, 2019.



DEAN A. GOULD
Forest Supervisor

File Code: 2670 **Date:** July 26, 2019
Route To: File
Subject: Forest Order No. 05-15-00-19-08 – 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 a road segment 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 the road, 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 road 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 this road segment will be accomplished with a gate or barricades.

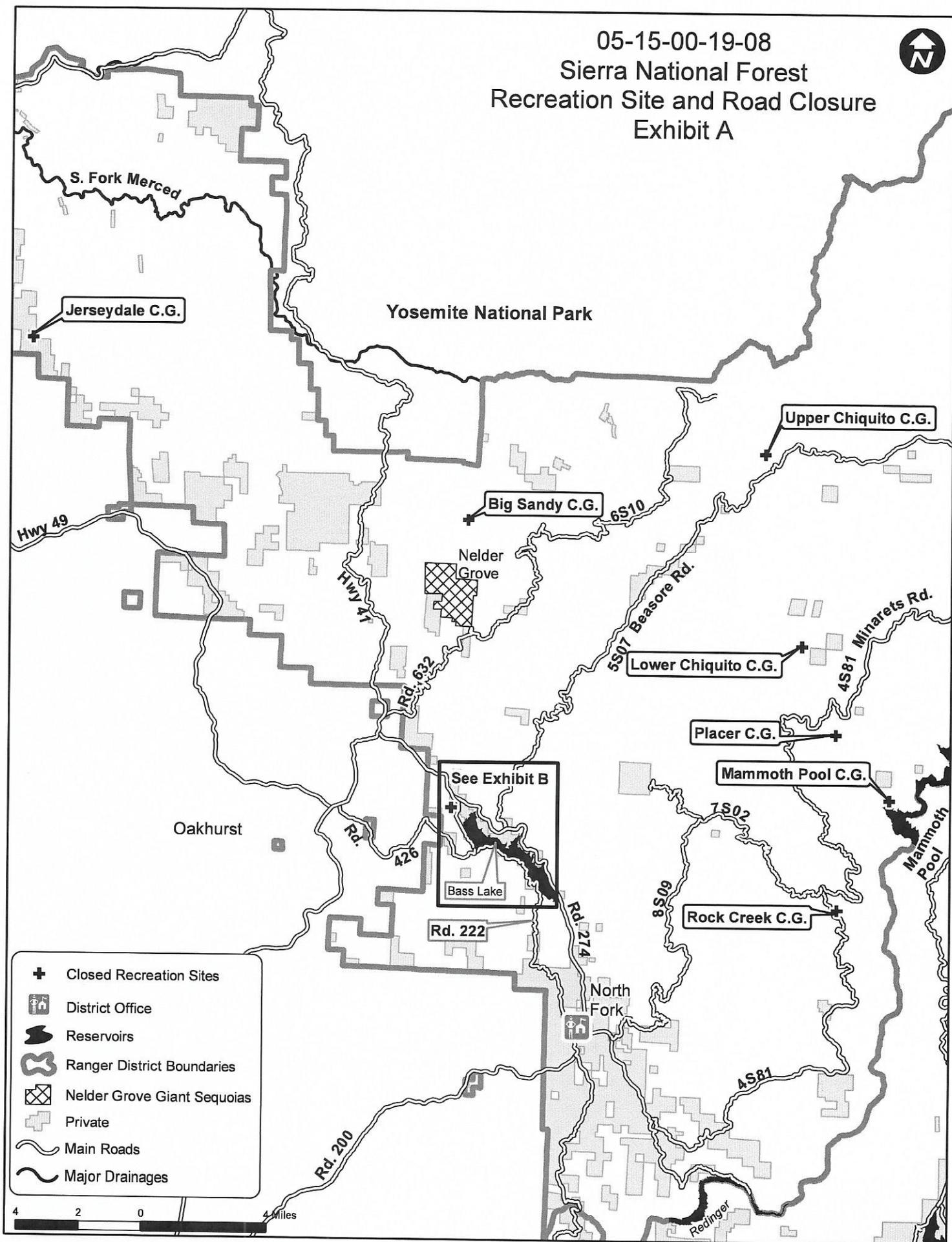
Additionally, due to the extremely large volume of tree mortality in the areas addressed by the Order, the use of specified developed recreation sites will be prohibited to protect the public from the high risk of hazards associated with recreating in direct proximity of dead trees, which have the potential 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.

As of July 15, 2019 and due to the passage of time and changing conditions, the hazards listed above have been mitigated in Soda Springs, Texas Flats and Swanson Meadow Campgrounds, including Windy Point Day Use area. Hence, Soda Springs, Texas Flats, Swanson Meadow Campgrounds and the Windy Point Day Use area, are now open for public use. The Rancheria and Badger Flat Campgrounds and McKinley Grove and Dinkey Fisherman Picnic Sites have been added to the list of closed developed recreation sites, all due to the large volume of tree mortality. Forest Route 07S005 (Stump Springs Road) will remain closed and Forest Route No. 9S10 at the Lower Cow Creek Bridge has been added to the road closure list, both due to dangerous conditions.

Scoping efforts included discussions with California Land Management who concurred with the 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.



05-15-00-19-08
 Sierra National Forest
 Recreation Site and Road Closure
 Exhibit A



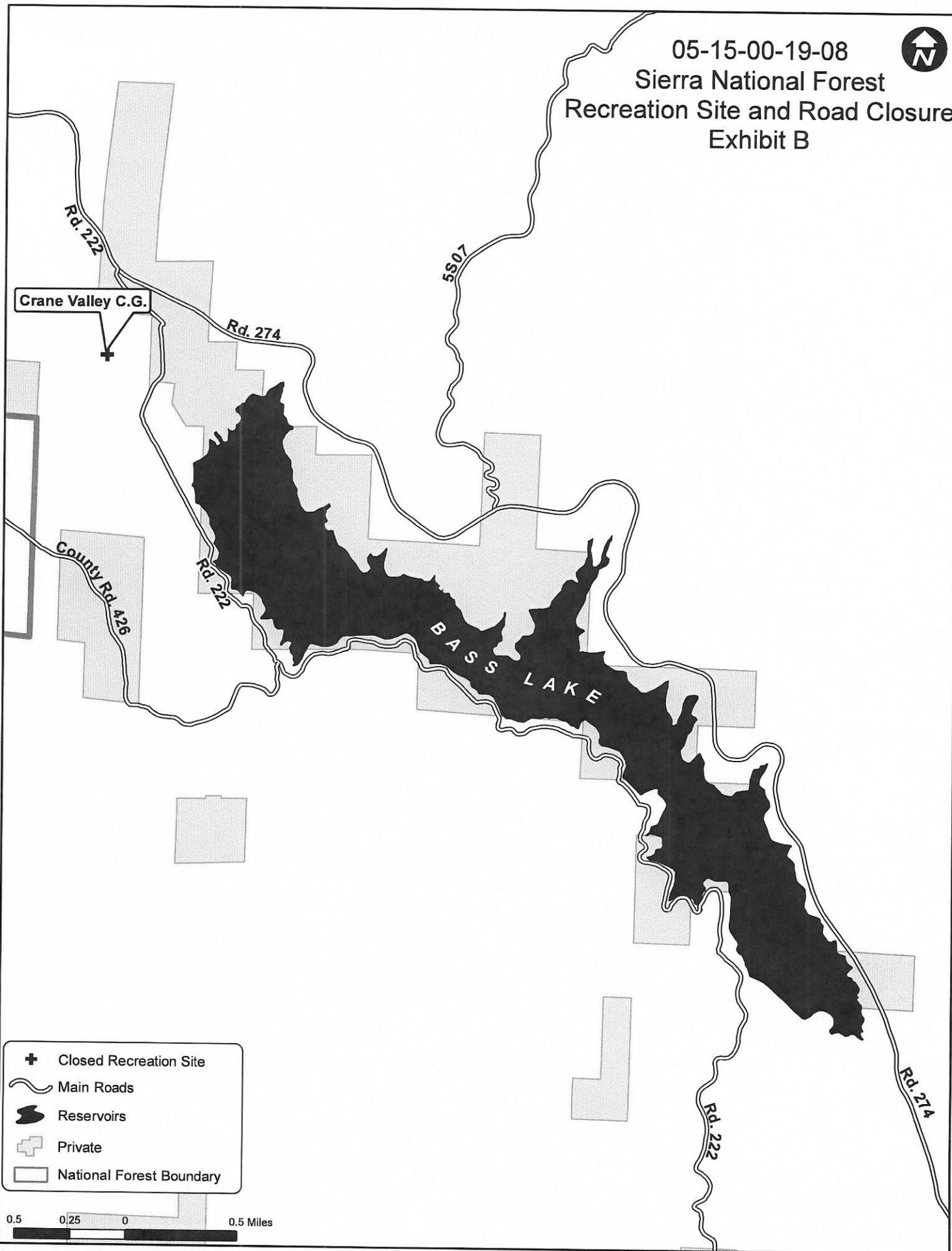
- Closed Recreation Sites
- District Office
- Reservoirs
- Ranger District Boundaries
- Nelder Grove Giant Sequoias
- Private
- Main Roads
- Major Drainages

4 2 0 Miles

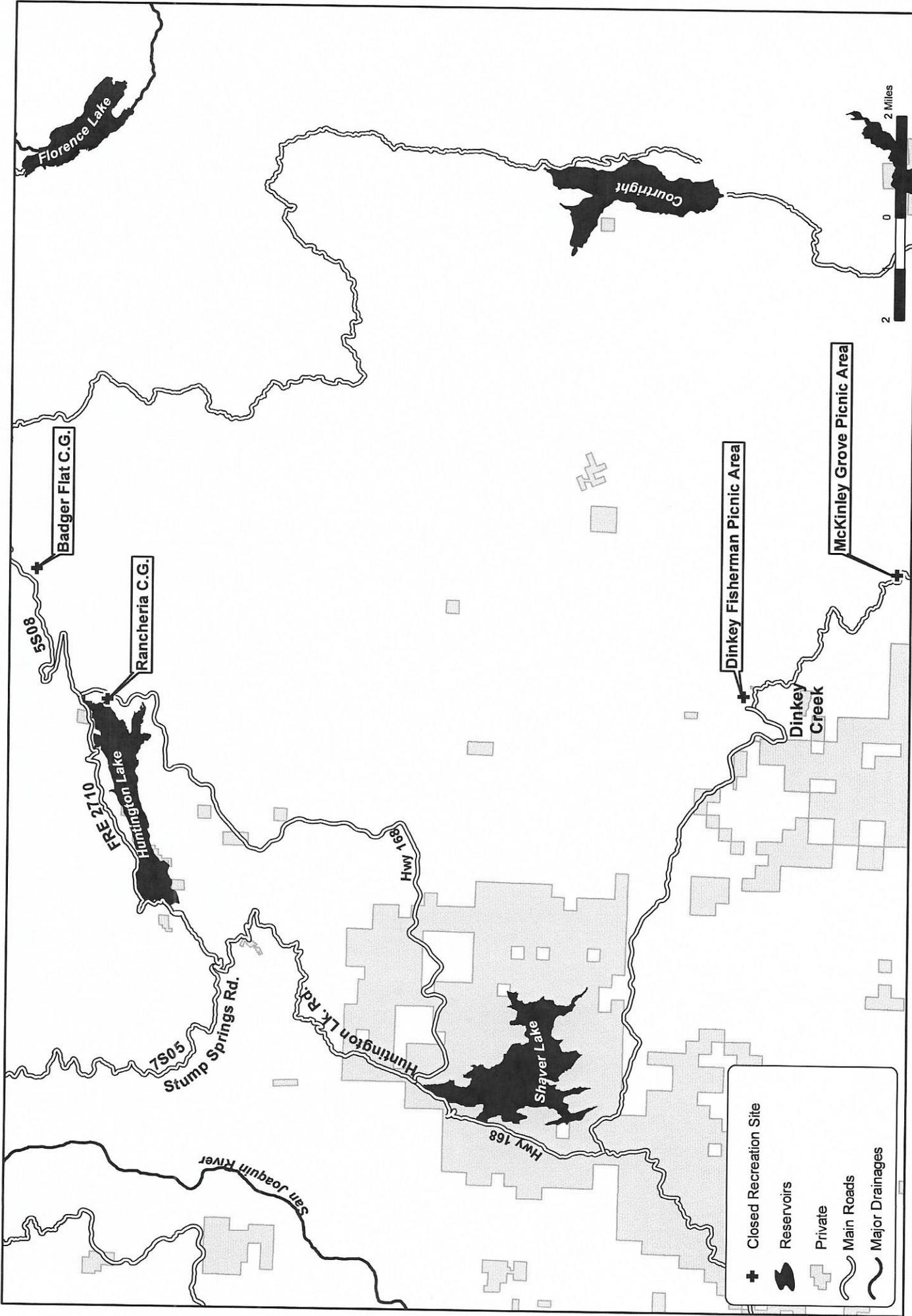
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Sierra National Forest Recreation Site and Road Closure Exhibit B



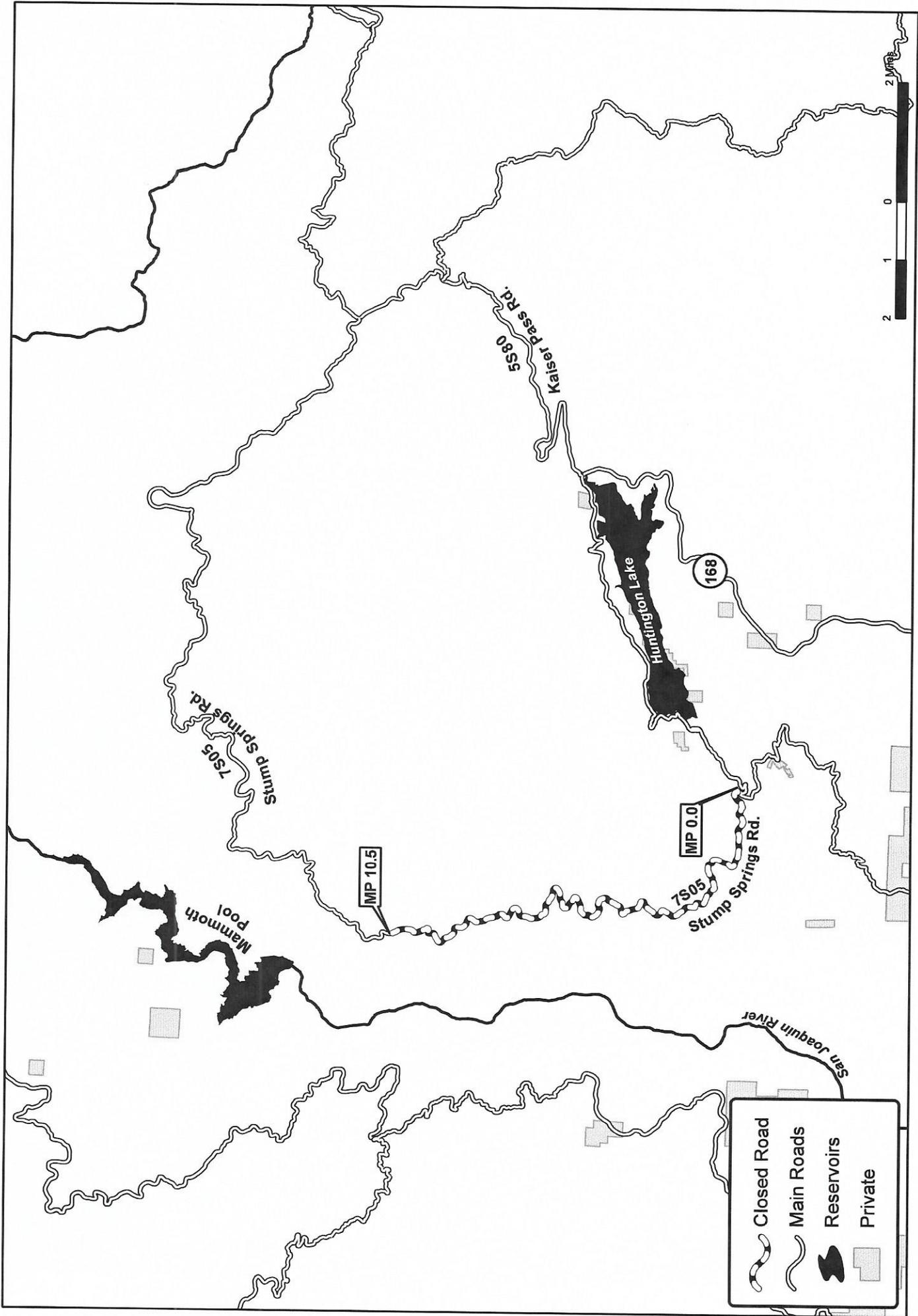
05-15-00-19-08
 Sierra National Forest
 Recreation Site and Road Closure
 Exhibit C



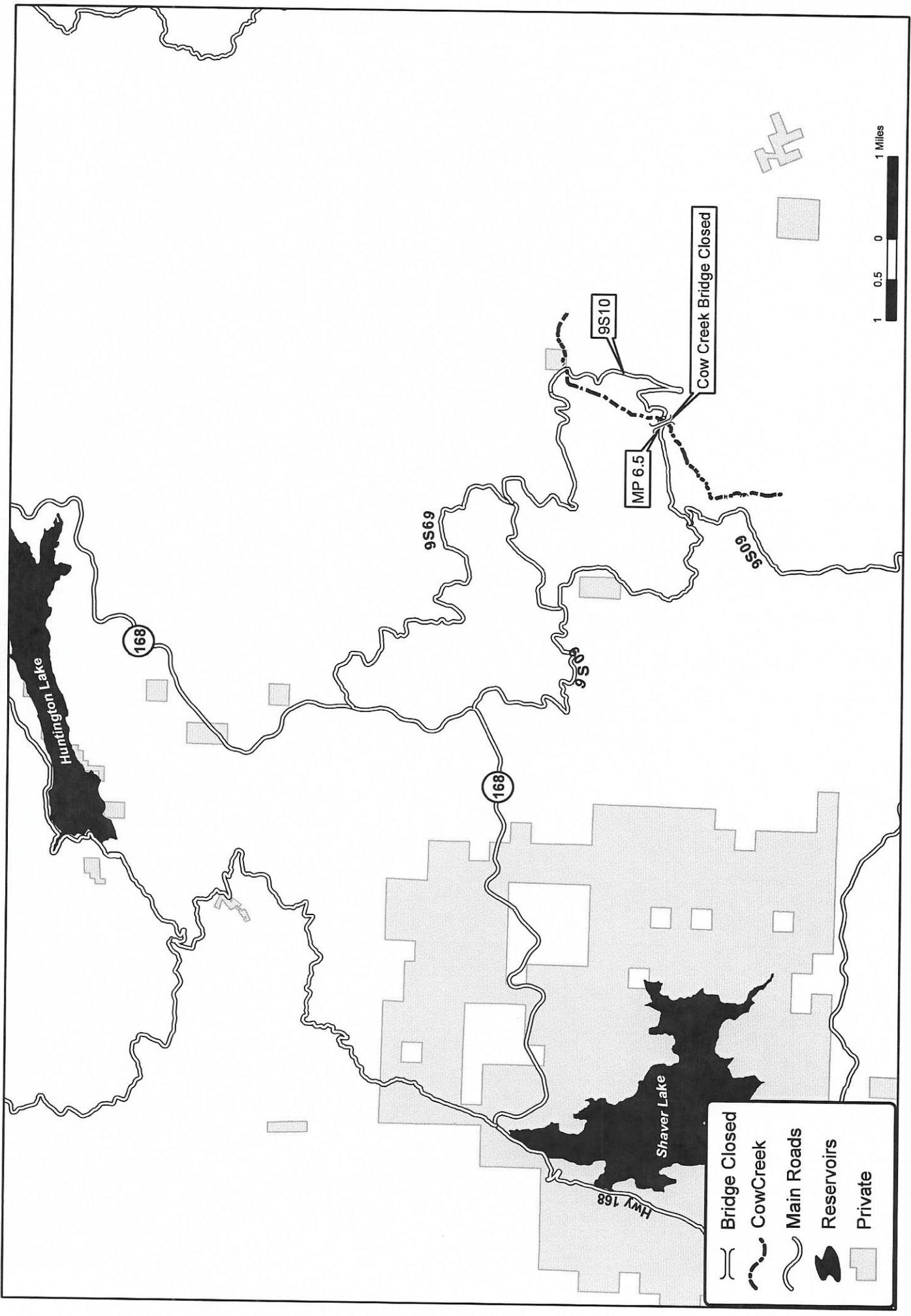
+	Closed Recreation Site
	Reservoirs
	Private
	Main Roads
	Major Drainages



05-15-00-19-08
Sierra National Forest
Recreation Site and Road Closure
Exhibit D



05-15-00-19-08
 Sierra National Forest
 Recreation Site and Road Closure
 Exhibit E



- Bridge Closed
- CowCreek
- Main Roads
- Reservoirs
- Private

1 0.5 0 1 Miles