Date: December 9, 2019

File Code: 2670  
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Subject: Forest Order No. 05-15-00-19-11 – Parking Restrictions

From: Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing a Forest Order for parking or leaving a motor vehicle or trailer in one place for more than 14 days on the Sierra National Forest. The Forest Order will be effective from December 10, 2019 through December 09, 2021. The prohibition is as follows:

Parking or leaving a motor vehicle or trailer in one place for more than 14 days within any 30-day period. 36 CFR 261.58(g)

The establishment of a 14-day restriction for parking on the forest is expected to discourage long-term parking by neighboring landowners and forest visitors. Occupancy limits are needed to ensure that visitors are not kept from the use of developed or undeveloped sites, because of the monopolization of a few. It is not uncommon for people to set up campers or trailers as season long-residences and used as weekend retreats, depriving others of coveted sites. Such occurrences often cause conflict with other forest visitors and the “first come, first serve’ approach to fair recreation. Therefore, this order proposes a restriction to limit the parking or leaving of a motor vehicle or trailer in a developed or undeveloped site to 14 days in a 30-day period. Normally, people who are camping travel in a motor vehicle.

Scoping efforts included discussions with California Land Management who concurred with the parking limits, and their effect on designated recreational sites. 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)(I) - 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.

It's Cool to Be Safe

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Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to protect natural resources and provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Sierra National Forest. This Order is effective from December 10, 2019, through December 09, 2021.

Parking or leaving a motor vehicle or trailer in one place for more than 14 days within any 30-day period. 36 CFR 261.58(g).

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.

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 December 09, 2019.

DEAN A GOULD
Forest Supervisor
Sierra National Forest