



**Forest Order No. STF-16-2020-12, COVID-19
Pinecrest Lake Basin – Road and Parking Area Closure
Stanislaus National Forest**

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 Summit Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. This Order is effective from June 8, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

1. Going into or being upon the National Forest Recreation areas shown on Exhibit A and listed or described in Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
2. Being upon the National Forest Roads shown on Exhibit A and listed in Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.54(e).

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

1. Persons with a Forest Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order, Form FS-7700-48, specifically exempting them from this Order.
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. Holders of a Forest Recreation Special Use Permit.

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 Sonora California, this 8th day of June, 2020.



Jason Kuiken
Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Stanislaus National Forest

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Date: June 8, 2020

Subject: Forest Order No. STF-16-2020-12, COVID-19 Public Health & Safety: Pinecrest Basin - Road and Parking Area Closure

To: Project Files

From: Jason Kuiken, Forest Supervisor

I am issuing Forest Order No. STF-16-2020-12 COVID 19 to provide for public and employee health and safety by keeping some roads and parking areas in the busy Pinecrest Lake Basin on the Stanislaus National Forest (STF) closed through September 30, 2020. This closure may be terminated or extended depending upon conditions.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infection and potentially fatal disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus which leads to respiratory illness. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with once another (about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. As of June 3, 2020, the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported a total of 1,860,890 cases of COVID-19 nationwide (up from 1,698,523 since May 28, 2020) with 118,000 cases in California (up from 103,936 since May 28, 2020). While local cases remain small in number (currently 37 confirmed cases, up from 31 since May 28, 2020), many of the cases have been determined to be exposures from out-of-county. In addition, limited local testing has taken place.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. As a result, the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The President's Coronavirus Guidelines suggest that individuals avoid social gatherings in groups of 10 or more people, remain home whenever possible, and avoid discretionary travel. In addition, in states with evidence of community transmission, the Guidelines require closure of indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate.

California has seen rapid community spread of the coronavirus. On March 19, 2020, the Governor of California issued Executive Order N-33-20, which directs all individuals living in the state to stay home or at their place of residence. On May 7, 2020, California's Public Health Officer issued an order explaining California's path forward from this "Stay-at-Home" Order through implementation of its Pandemic Roadmap. This Roadmap identifies four stages of the pandemic: safety and preparation (Stage 1), reopening of lower-risk workplaces and other spaces (Stage 2), reopening of higher-risk workplaces and other spaces (Stage 3), and finally an easing of final restrictions leading to the end of the stay at home order (Stage 4). The STF includes lands in portions of four California counties: Tuolumne, Mariposa, Calaveras, and Alpine. Each of these counties are in Stage 2 and in alignment with the state guidelines for reopening.



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As America and the State of California begin to open up again, suggested guidance for responsible public behavior consistent with continuing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 includes social distancing. Popular recreations sites such as the Pinecrest Lake Basin have historically experienced extremely high visitation rates. National Visitor Use Monitoring in the Pinecrest Basin indicates that 10,000 – 15,000 visits may be made to this area during busy summer days. As such, this Order is meant to reduce the amount of public access to the Basin in an attempt to decrease visitor density and thereby provide greater opportunities for social distancing, to prevent or lower the spread of COVID-19. Additional limitations will be placed on permitted uses to reduce overall visitor density in this area.

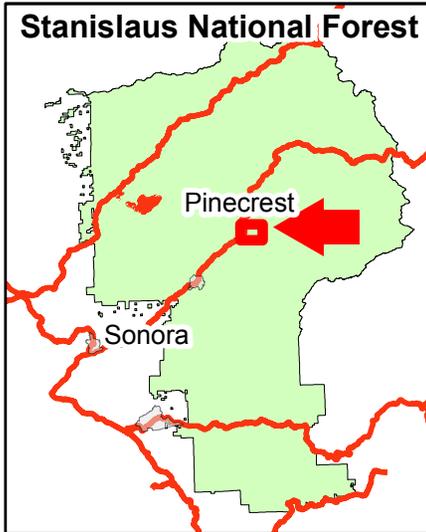
In consideration of the above listed concerns, I have decided to temporarily reduce the available public parking by approximately 50%. I have decided to close public access to a number of National Forest System and Permitted Roads within the Basin to prevent public parking along these roads. I will revisit this decision as the summer progresses and alter it as necessary to allow safe recreation access to the Pinecrest Basin.

In preparing this order, the following entities have been contacted or have otherwise offered their support of this action: Tuolumne County Administrator's Office / Office of Emergency Services; Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors; Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office; California Highway Patrol; and permittees: Pinecrest Lake Resort, Dodge Ridge, Friends of Pinecrest, Pinecrest Chalet, and the Pinecrest Permittees Association.

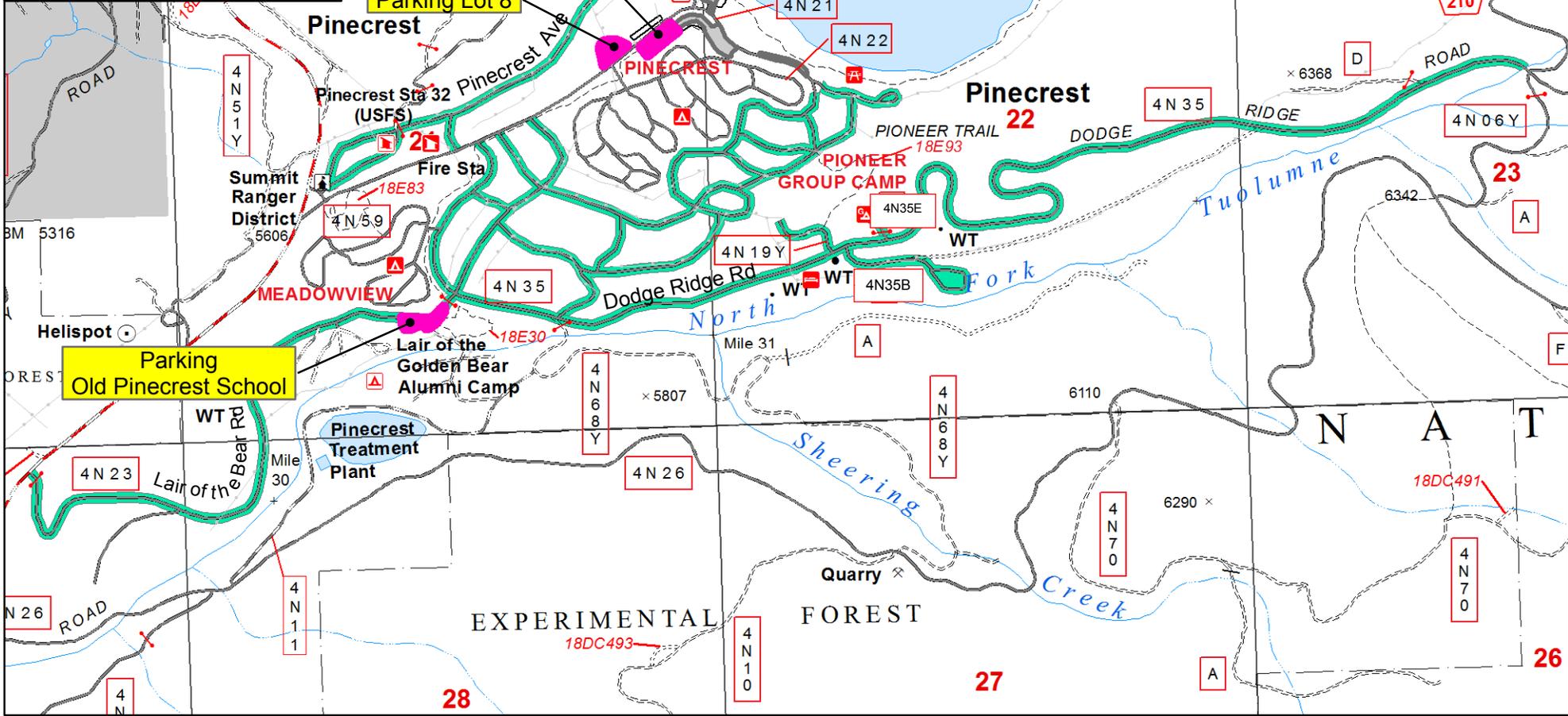
This Forest Order includes an exemption for persons with a Forest Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order (Form FS-7700-48). Authorization for entry under this exemption will only be provided if I or my delegate determine that the risk to personal health and safety is reasonable considering the circumstances of the request. I hereby delegate the authority to sign Form FS-700-48 granting an exemption to this Forest Order to the Summit District Ranger or Deputy District Ranger on the Stanislaus National Forest. My intent is that the numerous permit holders in the Pinecrest Basin are granted access to their permitted facilities.

This order will be in effect until September 30, 2020 and may be extended until Executive Order N-33-20 is lifted. Conversely, if conditions change that are favorable to opening additional portions of this Recreation Area, the order may be terminated sooner.

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.



USDA Forest Order No. STF-16-2020-12
 Stanislaus National Forest
 Pinecrest Basin Road and
 Parking Area Closure
 Exhibit A-1

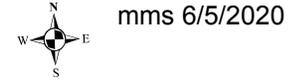
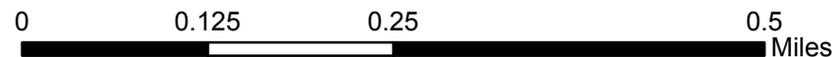
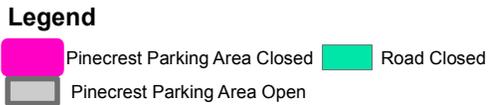
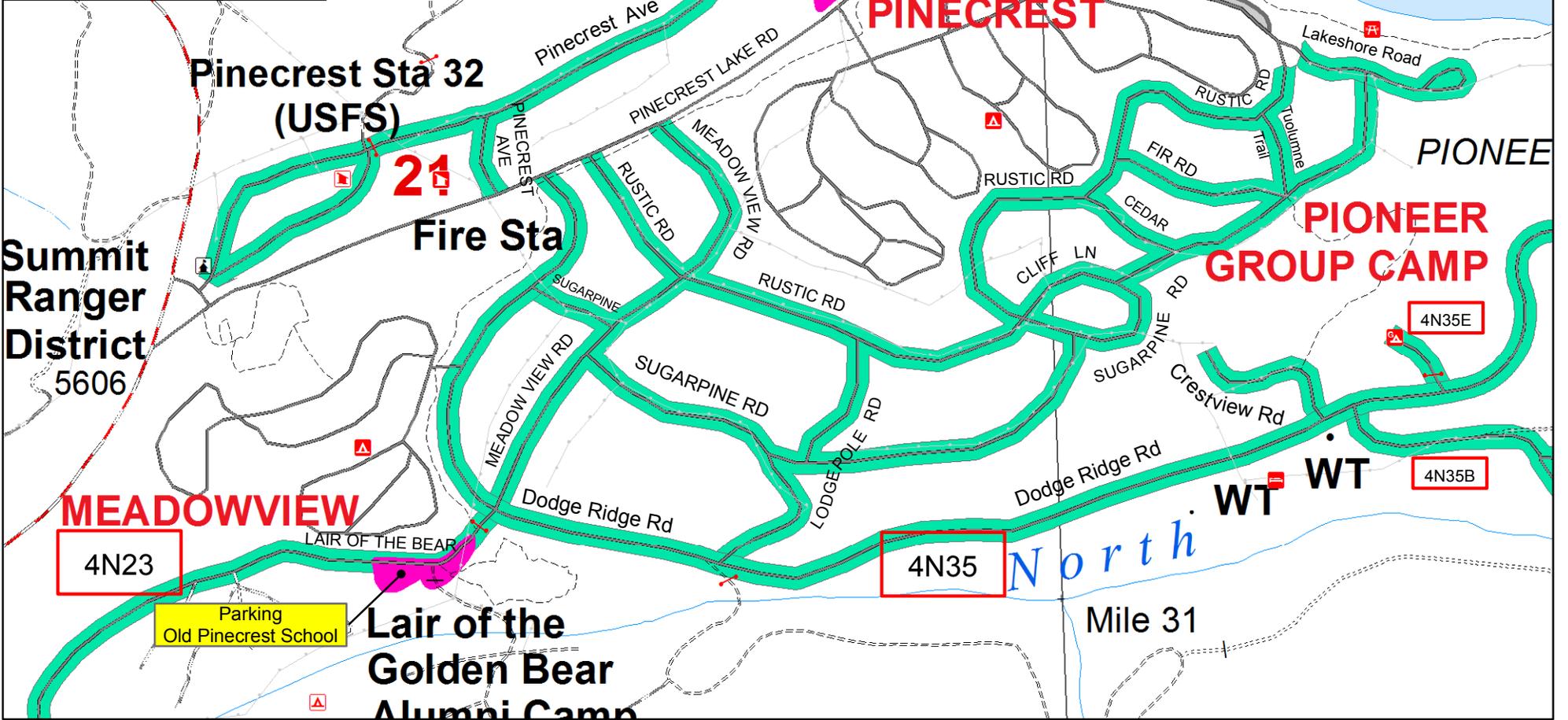
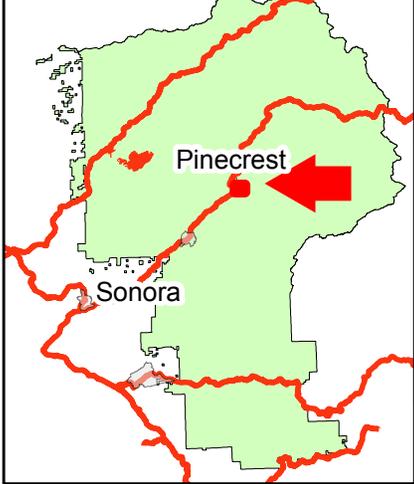



- Pinecrest Parking Area Closed
- Road Closed
- Pinecrest Parking Area Open
- Spur Road Number

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

mms 6/5/2020





Forest Order No. STF-16-2020-12 COVID 19
Pinecrest Basin – Road and Parking Area Closure
Stanislaus National Forest
Exhibit B

The Pinecrest Lake Basin Closure includes the following National Forest System Roads and Parking Areas:

Closed Parking Areas Within the Pinecrest Basin (Highlighted Pink in Exhibit A-1 and A-2):

1. Parking Lot 8.
2. Parking Lot at Old Pinecrest School.
3. Western Portion of the J-Lot. The lot is closed for parking from the western most portion of the lot extending to immediately east of the second turn-out along Pinecrest Lake Road.

Closed National Forest System and Permitted Roads (Highlighted Green in Exhibit A-1 and A-2):

1. National Forest System Road No. 4N20 (Pinecrest Avenue) and the Connection between Pinecrest Avenue and the Ranger District Office).
2. National Forest System Road No. 4N21 (Lakeshore Road) from its intersection with Permitted Road 41899Z14 (Rustic Road) east to its endpoint.
3. National Forest System Road No. 4N23 (Lair of the Bear Road).
4. National Forest System Road No. 4N35 (Dodge Ridge Road) from its intersection with National Forest System Road No. 4N20 (Pinecrest Lake Road) to its intersection with National Forest System Road No. 4N06Y (Crabtree Cutoff Road).
5. National Forest System Road No. 4N35E.
6. National Forest System Road No. 4N35B.
7. Permitted Road No. 41899Z09 (Sugarpine Road).
8. Permitted Road No. 41899Z14 (Rustic Road).
9. Permitted Road No. 41899Z14 (Lodgepole Road).
10. Permitted Road No. 41899Z16 (Meadow View Road).
11. Permitted Road No. 41899Z17 (Tuolumne Trail Road).
12. Permitted Road No. 41899Z18 (Cliff Lane).
13. Permitted Road No. 41899Z22 (Cedar Road).
14. Permitted Road No. 41899Z23 (Fir Road).
15. Permitted Road No. 41899Z10 (Granite Ave).
16. Permitted Road No. 41899Z11 (Highland Way).
17. Permitted Road No. 4N19Y (Crestview Road).