



**FOREST ORDER NO. STF-16-2020-13
STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST
OCCUPANCY AND USE
CAMPING LIMITS**

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and CFR 261.50(a), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following act is prohibited within the Stanislaus National Forest. This Order is effective from June 15, 2020 through June 15, 2022.

Camping, as described below.

- a. In any developed location within one Ranger District for longer than 14 consecutive days within any 30 day period.
- b. In any undeveloped location within one Ranger District for longer than 21 total days during a calendar year.

36 CFR 261.58(a).

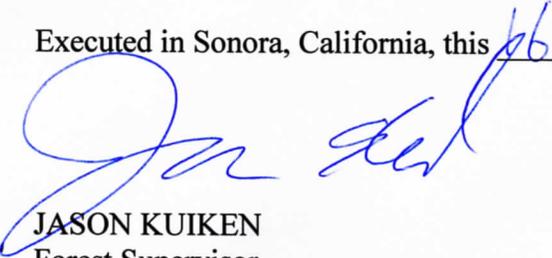
Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

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

This prohibition is in addition to the general prohibitions 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 Sonora, California, this 16 day of June, 2020.


JASON KUIKEN
Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest



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Forest
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Route To: (1950)

Date: June 16, 2020

Subject: Forest Order No. STF-16-2020-13, Occupancy and Use – Camping Limits

To: Project Files

From: Jason Kuiken, Forest Supervisor

I am issuing Forest Order No. STF-16-2020-13 to provide for public health and safety and for the protection of natural resources by imposing a camping limit on the Stanislaus National Forest (STF) through June 15, 2022.

The STF is a diverse, Sierran foothill Forest that welcomes over a million visitors to the Forest on an annual basis to engage in a variety of recreational opportunities. Many visitors come year after year, often returning to their favorite location. The number of persons engaging in long-term forest stays, however, has increased substantially over the last few years. This is likely due to generally mild climates especially at the lower elevations of the Forest. As a result of this long-term visitation, protection of resources and health and safety of visitors and employees has become a challenge.

Forest staff observations indicate that with a limited camping stay, resources are not substantially degraded like they are with unlimited stays. Unlimited stays often result in: the removal of vegetation for campsite location or denuded vegetation due to repeated use of vehicles and foot traffic; soil compaction around the campsite areas, leading to increased run-off and stream sedimentation; human waste disposal issues; and unsightly trash accumulations (which often includes hazardous materials related to illegal substances (marijuana and other drug paraphernalia). The needed cleanup is a health and safety concern for those employees tasked with that effort.

Even where use does not result in resource damage or clean-up needs, without a camp stay limit, the diverse and desiring public often has a difficult time enjoying their favorite areas and locations due to other visitors occupying sites for long durations. This has the potential to lead to user conflicts and other public safety incidents.

By implementing a camping limit order, the STF can reduce the overall resource impacts and can lessen the safety and health issues created through extended stays. In addition, more of the visiting public have an opportunity to select and stay in their favorite area. Lastly, it will allow the Forest to discourage long-term use before those visitors settle into their campsites and provide the Forest the opportunity to advise visitors about off-Forest longer-stay alternatives.



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This Forest Order includes an exemption for persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission. In addition, any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty is exempt from this order.

This order will be in effect until June 15, 2022 and may be extended if conditions warrant.

External public support exists for this order from local law enforcement agencies and public health officials.

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 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 closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.