



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Plumas
National
Forest

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File Code: 5330

Date: September 18, 2020

Subject: Forest Order No. 05-11-00-20-19 (Emergency Camping Prohibition)

To: File

From: Christopher Carlton, Forest Supervisor *Chris Carlton*

I have decided to issue Forest Order 05-11-00-20-19 to restrict camping on the Plumas National Forest. This Order will be in effect from September 19, 2020 through October 31, 2021. This Order will provide for the safety of forest visitors by temporary limiting the number of national forest visitors potentially subject to harm from wildfire. This Order compliments Regional Order 20-11, which prohibits building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, or smoking on National Forest System lands within the Pacific Southwest Region.

The Plumas National Forest is currently impacted by the North Complex fire incident, which made a historic run on September 8th after a spot fire jumped the Middle Fork of the Feather River from an uncontained fire edge. This spot fire traveled more than 30 miles in 16 hours, and spotted across Lake Oroville. This unprecedented run burned more than 200,000 acres in the Plumas National Forest and adjoining private lands. The North Complex remains largely uncontained. This Order provides for the safety of forest visitors by mitigating wildfire ignition potential during extreme fire conditions.

This Order allows camping in open, hosted, developed campgrounds. These locations are patrolled throughout the day, and can more readily implement evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency.

A Forest Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order (Form FS-7700-48), granting an exemption to this Order, 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 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 after I issue this Order.



Christopher Carlton
Forest Supervisor

cc: M. Barrios-LE&I P.C., Rachel Birkey – OGC Senior Counsel