UNIVERSAL STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
OKANOGAN WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST
NACHES, WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 06-17-08-19-14

Boulder Cave Wildlife Closure Order

Pursuant to 16 USC § 551 and 36 CFR § 261.50 (a), and to provide for resource protection, the following acts are prohibited within the Naches Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. This Order supersedes Forest Order #732, signed April 6, 2011 by Rebecca Heath, and will be effective during the following periods: October 3rd, 2019 to May 20th, 2020 and September 20th, 2020 to May 20th, 2021 unless rescinded.

PROHIBITIONS:

It is prohibited to go into or be upon any area which is closed for the protection of threatened, endangered, rare, unique, or vanishing species of plants, animals, birds or fish. [36 CFR 261.53 (a)]

It is prohibited to enter or use a developed recreation site or portion thereof, when provided by an order. [36 CFR § 261.58 (b)]

It is prohibited to park or leave a vehicle in violation of posted instructions. [36 CFR § 261.58 (g)]

BOULDER CAVE AREA CLOSURE DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at the Boulder Cave Recreation Area entrance gate located on Forest System Road (FSR) 1706200, by the Camp Raganunda entrance (T17N R14E NE1/4 Sec 22), traveling north towards the Boulder Cave Recreation Area to the intersection with the 962A Trail (T17N R14E NE1/4 Sec 15) and following it around the recreation area until it reconnects with FSR 1706200. The closure boundary includes the spur of FSR 1706200 traveling north from the recreation area until it terminates. The 962A Trail crosses over FSR 1706200 and connects with the 962 Trail, the closure continues west along the 962 Trail to Boulder Cave (T17N R14E NW1/4 Sec 16). A 300-foot buffer centered on the 962 Trail, the 962A Trail, and FSR 1706200 is included in this closure to help prevent unauthorized access to this area for the extent of the closure. (See Exhibit A)

The Boulder Cave Recreation Area (BCRA) is a Developed Recreation Site and a designated Day Use Area, as such, all general prohibitions found in 36 CFR, part 261.16 apply at all times. Including, but not limited to, the following prohibitions: overnight occupancy, camping, and vehicle use or parking outside of designated areas.
EXEMPTIONS:

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

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the 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.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

Done at Wenatchee Washington, this 2nd day of October 2019.

[Signature]

KRISTIN M. BAIL
Forest Supervisor
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

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 6 months, or both. 16 USC § 551 and 18 USC §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.
Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan

Prohibition Objective:
The objective of this order is to provide protection to critical wildlife habitat for rare, unique or vanishing animal species, protection of FS facilities

Public Notification Plan: Information associated with the closure will be made available to the public through media releases and Forest Service Offices and websites. This notice will be posted at Boulder Cave Recreation Area and at the Naches Ranger District Office’s foyer. Informational signs will be professionally made according to Forest Service standards. Closure signs will be posted on the entrance road and at other areas of concern. The Forest Order and map will be posted at the Swamp Creek Sno-Park, entrance gate, at the main kiosk next to the shelter, and at the trailhead.

Enforcement Plan: This order will be enforceable by Law Enforcement Officers and Forest Protection Officers. Education will be emphasized during initial implementation of this order. Officers will exercise normal discretion in resolving violations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsible Official</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepare proposed order</td>
<td>District Ranger</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Review proposed order</td>
<td>Patrol Captain</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Approve proposed order</td>
<td>Forest Supervisor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Post order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51</td>
<td>District Staff Officer and Staff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare news release for local media describing the order and management objectives</td>
<td>Public Affairs Officer</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>District staff will be responsible for the management and enforcement of this closure order. Any enforcement actions will be within normal policies and procedures established by the LEI Patrol Captain for the zone.</td>
<td>District Staff</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MEMORANDUM
FROM:        KRISTIN M. BAIL
            FOREST SUPERVISOR
TO:         FILE
SUBJECT:    Boulder Cave Wildlife Closure 06-17-08-19-14 NEPA
FILE CODE:  2300

BACKGROUND AND NEED:
Boulder Cave Recreation Area is a day use site on the Naches Ranger District and is a popular destination for individuals, families, school classes, and organizational groups during the summer season. Boulder Cave is an important winter-roost site for hibernating bats. Management actions have been instituted by the District to conserve, protect, and promote bat roosting and hibernation in the cave and to reduce exposure to a deadly fungus, known as White-Nose Syndrome (WNS). This fungus has killed millions of bats and collapsed bat colonies. Bats are particularly susceptible to WNS spread during hibernation. Closing the area around Boulder Cave to public use during the winter will help control the risk of White-Nose Syndrome exposure to wintering bats. Boulder Cave Recreation Area is not staffed during the winter months. Closure of the area also helps protect day use assets and historic structures from unmonitored use, or misuse, when the recreation area is not staffed.

SCOPING: Scoping was completed internally with staff on the Naches Ranger District and Forest leadership who are experienced in determining adequate closures to protect resources, public health and safety. External scoping was conducted with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and Yakama Nation biologists during the development of this closure and a larger Boulder Cave Management Plan. The Naches District Ranger and staff have discussed the closure with potentially interested parties. A notice will be posted on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest website, at the closure area, and shared with partner organizations.

REASONS FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDING THE ACTION:
Based on a review of the proposed order and consultation with Naches Ranger District resource specialists, 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 C.F.R. § 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 there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure.

[Signature]
KRISTIN M. BAIL
Forest Supervisor
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Caring for the Land and Serving People
Exhibit A

Boulder Cave Recreation Area Closure

Area Closed from September 20th to May 20th

Closure order: 06-17-08-19-14

For More Information
Contact:
Naches Ranger District
10237 Highway 12
Naches, WA 98937
(509) 653-1401

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The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

LEGEND

Swamp Creek Sno-Park
FS Roads
Parking Prohibited
Trail
Stream
Boulder Cave Rec Area Closure
Ranger District Boundary
USDA Forest Service

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest