

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST
COUNCIL RANGER DISTRICT

CAMPING AND MOTOR VEHICLE CLOSURE
(For Threatened Species Protection)

PROHIBITIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited in the area described in this order, within the administrative and proclaimed boundaries of the Council Ranger District, Payette National Forest. This order will be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect until further notice.

1. Camping (in the area as described below). **36 CFR 261.58(e)**
2. Possessing or using a motor vehicle off National Forest System Roads (as described below).
36 CFR 261.56

EXEMPTIONS:

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

1. Persons with a special use authorization or other Forest Service authorization specifically exempting them from the effect of 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. Federal or State administrative personnel in performance of an official duty.

AREA DESCRIPTION:

The Calf Pen Camping and Motor Vehicle Off-Road Closure Area: is described as the area within 1,200 feet of either side of (but excluding) National Forest System (NFS) Road #50073 (also known as the Calf Pen Road) beginning where the Calf Pen Road crosses Wickiup Creek (T19N R3W NWNW Sec 10) and extending westerly for approximately 1.7 miles to where Calf Pen Road crosses Calf Pen Gulch (T19N R3W SWSW Sec 9).

The above described area is within the boundaries of the Council Ranger District, Payette National Forest, Boise Meridian, Adams County, ID.

PURPOSE:

The area adjacent to Calf Pen Road #50073 has been identified as habitat occupied by the northern Idaho ground squirrel. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, lists the northern Idaho ground squirrel as a threatened species. In order to protect the northern Idaho ground squirrel and the area occupied by this threatened species, it is necessary to close the area to motor vehicle off road travel and camping.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. This Order will be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect until further notice.
2. A map identifying the closure area is attached and made part of this Order.
3. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable by fine of not more than \$5,000.00 for an individual, or \$10,000.00 for an organization, and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3751 (b) (6), Title 18 USC 3581 (b)(7)].
4. This Order supersedes any previous Order(s) prohibiting the same, or similar acts prohibited by this Order on the road covered by this Order.
5. Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at the Payette Supervisor's Office, McCall, ID telephone 208-634-0700 or the Council Ranger District, Council, ID, telephone 208-253-0100.

Done at McCall, Idaho this 9th day of July, 2015


FOR

KEITH B. LANNOM
Forest Supervisor
Payette National Forest

Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan
Payette National Forest
Council Ranger District
Calf Pen Road Area Dispersed Camping and Off-road Travel Closure Area

Background:

The northern Idaho ground squirrel is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. The northern Idaho ground squirrel has one of the most restricted ranges of any mammal in North America. It occurs only on and adjacent to National Forest System lands (primarily the Payette National Forest) in central Idaho. The squirrel has been known to occur in the Summit Gulch and Calf Pen road area for many years, but recently has expanded into an area immediately adjacent to the Calf Pen road (#50073). This area begins where the Calf Pen Road crosses Wickiup Creek (T19N R3W NWNW Sec 10) [UTM, Zone 11T, 523973 mE, 4983288 mN] and extends to where Calf Pen Road crosses Calf Pen Gulch (T19N R3W SWSW Sec 9) [UTM, Zone 11T, 522753 mE, 4982184 mN].

The Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) allows motorized travel off Calf Pen Road of up to 300 feet on either side of the road for the purpose of dispersed camping and firewood cutting. This camping and travel conflicts with the range of the northern Idaho ground squirrel in the area. To protect this threatened species, it is necessary to close an area along the road to motorized travel off the roadway up to 300 feet (in contrast to what is currently authorized in the Payette National Forest MVUM), and to close a larger area occupied by the squirrel to camping (see map).

The motor vehicle closure area would include these lands 300 feet on either side of the road (lands beyond this 300 foot zone are already closed to motorized use). The camping closure would include lands up to 1,200 feet on either side of the road, to protect the squirrel from people who may park next to the road and walk into the area. Continuing to allow travel and camping in the area would result in unacceptable impacts to this threatened species in violation of the ESA. Because of the emergency nature of this situation, the Council District Ranger made the decision to implement the closures identified in this order without benefit of public scoping or environmental assessment in support of his decision.

Intent of Subpart B order:

The intent of this order is twofold. Current travel management allows for off road motorized travel up to 300 feet. The first is to prohibit off road motorized travel in the area described above along the Calf Pen Road. The second is to prohibit camping in a larger area occupied by the threatened northern Idaho ground squirrel.

Signs warning forest visitors that they are entering an area with restrictions to off-road travel and camping burned area will be installed along the road at either end of the closure area.

The closure to off road motorized travel up to 300 feet will be for one year, until the MVUM can be updated in winter 2016. The camping closure is necessary for an indefinite period (or until such time as the squirrel may no longer occupy the area or is no longer listed as a threatened species).

Enforcement Plan:

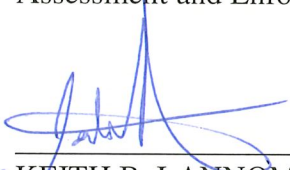
A cooperative effort between Forest LE&I and District Forest Protection Officers will be implemented. Educational efforts to bring the prohibitions to the attention of the public will include newspaper articles, placing information on the forest web page, and signing at the entrances to the restricted camping and off road travel area. Forest Service Officers will patrol the area during their scheduled shift. Forest Service Officers will make public contacts to gain voluntary compliance. Written warnings and violation notices will be issued when appropriate.

Action Plan:

<u>Action</u>	<u>Responsible Official</u>	<u>Date</u>
Prepare proposed order	Ana Egnew, Forest Wildlife Biologist Jon Almack, District Wildlife Biologist	06/30/2015
Review proposed order	Forest and Zone, LE&I	06/30/2015
Reviewed by	R4 LE&I and OGC	06/30/2015
Approve proposed order	Keith Lannom, Forest Supervisor	When signed
Post order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51.	District Staff	When signed
Prepare news release for local Media describing the order and Management objectives	District & PAO	When signed
Implementation: Patrol Area	District FPOs/LEO	Ongoing

Assessment and Enforcement Plan approved for implementation:

F02



KEITH B. LANNOM
Forest Supervisor
Payette National Forest

Payette NF Order Number 0412-468

