

ORDER NO. 14-03  
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST  
SHOOTING PROHIBITION AREA  
OCCUPANCY AND USE

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following act is prohibited within the Santa Lucia Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest. This Order is effective from May 16, 2014 through May 15, 2015.

Discharging a firearm in the Shooting Prohibition Area as described in Exhibit A and shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.58(m).

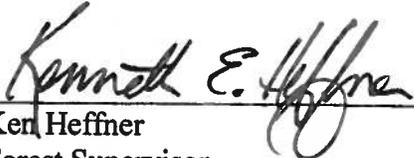
Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

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.
3. Persons hunting during the open hunting season as specified by the laws of the State of California, and possessing a valid California hunting license, may discharge a firearm at a legal game bird or mammal.

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.

Done at Goleta, California this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2014.

  
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Ken Heffner  
Forest Supervisor  
Los Padres National Forest

**Date:** May 15, 2014

**Subject:** ORDER NO. 14-03  
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST  
SHOOTING PROHIBITION AREA

**To:** File

**From:** Ken Heffner, Forest Supervisor

KEH

The attached Forest Order was developed in response to continued hazards related to target shooting as described below. Target shooting remains dangerous in the East and West Cuesta Ridges, Cerro Alto Ridge, Lopez Canyon and Hi Mountain areas. Shooting is a threat to human life in nearby campgrounds, in general forest areas and on trails; it damages Government property and private property; it damages the Cuesta Botanical Area; causes an accumulation of litter; and poses a risk to human life and wildlife in the Hi Mountain Lookout area, where the endangered California condors frequent and the sensitive peregrine falcons nest. This Order is important because of the intensity of use in this area of the Forest, immediately adjacent to Cal Poly University and the large urban front of San Luis Obispo. A Civil Rights Impact Analysis has been completed. This Forest Order equally affects all members of the public.

Efforts to curtail the inappropriate shooting in the area, including increased patrol, have continued to assist with the management of target shooting. Increased enforcement is still needed as the safety issues continue. Signs have been posted in the areas described below and have not reduced the damage. Vegetation in the Botanical Area has been destroyed, individuals have been nearly missed by bullets, and vandalism of facilities continues (signs destroyed, facilities damaged). Multiple complaints from the public of near misses have been reported along with requests that the Forest take action to restrict shooting. Forest Law Enforcement officers have also experienced near misses caused by shooting from people in the area. Hunting has not posed the same indiscriminate hazard because the infrequent hunting in the area is aimed at a specific target. As a result, hunting in compliance with State laws is not prohibited by this order.

I have determined that this closure will enhance public safety, provide an avenue for administrative and law enforcement implementation, and reduce the risk of catastrophic fires and their associated resource, life and property protection issues.

The boundary of the Shooting Prohibition Area begins at the intersection of State Highway 41 and the Los Padres National Forest boundary located in Township 29 South, Range 11 East, Section 1, Mt Diablo Meridian, then continues south following the Los Padres National Forest boundary to its intersection with the Garcia OHV Route (OHV Route No. 15E11), then continues southeast following the Garcia Wilderness boundary to its intersection with Trout Creek, then continues west along the Los Padres National Forest boundary to its intersection with Section 18

and 19, Township 31 South, Range 14 East, then continues north along the Los Padres National Forest boundary back to the starting point.

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.

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EXHIBIT A

The boundary of the Shooting Prohibition Area begins at the intersection of State Highway 41 and the Los Padres National Forest boundary located in Township 29 South, Range 11 East, Section 1, Mt Diablo Meridian, then continues south following the Los Padres National Forest boundary to its intersection with the Garcia OHV Route (OHV Route No. 15E11), then continues southeast following the Garcia Wilderness boundary to its intersection with Trout Creek, then continues west along the Los Padres National Forest boundary to its intersection with Section 18 and 19, Township 31 South, Range 14 East, then continues north along the Los Padres National Forest boundary back to the starting point.

