



File Code: 2670

Date: October 6, 2014

Route To: File

Subject: Forest Order – Temporary Fire Restrictions (Low Fire Hazard Area) (15-14-11)

From: Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor 

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing a Fire closure order on the Sierra National Forest.

Criteria for activation of prohibitions through Forest Orders are based on National Fire Danger Rating System indices and fuel moisture conditions. Specifically, they are: Burning Index is 60 or greater for three consecutive days with a predicted stable or upward trend, and dead fuel moistures for thousand hour time lag fuels are <14%. The forest has met these criteria since June 13, 2014 using Jerseydale, Miami, North Fork, Batterson, Mountain Rest, and Trimmer weather stations as representative sites. Conditions reflect a range of Burning Indices from 113 to 189, and a thousand hour fuel moisture of less than 14%, with a predicted stable weather pattern and drying trend.

Forest Fire Management Staff have reviewed these criteria and established that the criteria for entry into prohibitions no longer exit in the Low Fire Hazard and Wilderness areas of the Sierra National Forest.

Weather predictions show stable conditions into the future as well as high relative humidity's.

Precipitation occurred in most places on the Sierra National Forest from 9/26 through 9/28. Totals ranged from 1.3 inches in the North (Jerseydale) to .5 inches in the South (Trimmer). A light dusting of snow fell on Mount Tom.

Therefore, this Order will allow for restrictions to be removed from the Low Fire Hazard and Wilderness areas. Restrictions will remain in effect for the both the High and Moderate Fire Hazard areas.

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.



SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST
Forest Order No. 05-14-11
Fire Restrictions

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following acts are prohibited within the High and Moderate Fire Hazard Areas of Sierra National Forest as shown on Exhibit A and described in Exhibit B. This Order is effective from October 7, 2014 through the end of the official 2014 fire season.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except in the Designated Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit C. 36 CFR 261.52(a).
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, or within a Designated Recreation Site listed in Exhibit C. 36 C.F.R. 261.52(d).
3. Welding, or operating acetylene or other torch with open flame. 36 C.F.R. 261.52(i).
4. Using an explosive. 36 CFR 261.52(b).
5. Operating an internal combustion engine, except on a National Forest System road or trail. 36 CFR 261.52(h).

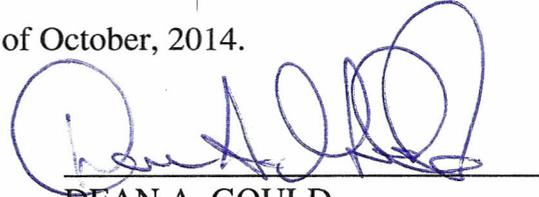
Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
2. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
3. Persons with a valid California Campfire Permit are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, persons with a valid California Campfire Permit may use a portable lantern or stove using contained gas, or pressurized liquid fuel with a fuel shut off valve.
4. Persons with a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service for a recreation residence may use a campfire or stove fire at their recreation residence.

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

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months or both. 16 USC § 551, and 18 USC §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed in Clovis, California, this 6th day of October, 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dean A. Gould", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

DEAN A. GOULD
Forest Supervisor

This Order supersedes Order No. 15-14-06, dated June 23, 2014.

Forest Order 15-14-11
Temporary Fire Restrictions
Moderate and High Fire Hazard Area
Sierra National Forest
Exhibit B

The boundary of the Moderate and High Fire Hazard Area begins at the intersection of the Monarch Wilderness and the Kings River on the south edge of Section 36, T12S R28E, then continues north along the Monarch Wilderness Boundary to its intersection with the north edge of Section 26, T12S R28E, then continues in a straight line northwest to the intersection of Forest Road 11S07 and Kings River Special Management Area Boundary, then continues north along Forest Road 11S07 to its intersection with the Spanish OHV Route, then continues in a straight line due west to the intersection of Forest Road 11S12 and Rancheria Creek, then continues north along Forest Road 11S12 to its intersection with McKinley Grove road, then continues west along McKinley Grove road to its intersection with Forest Road 10S07, then continues north along Forest Road 10S07 to its intersection with the north edge of Section 8, T9S R25E, then continues in a straight line due west to its intersection for Forest Road 9S09, then continues north along Forest Road 9S09 to its intersection with the northeast corner of Section 31, T9S R25E, then continues west along the north boundary of Section 31 and Section 36 of T9S R25E, then continues north along the east boundary of Section 26 and 23 of T9S R25E, then continues west along the north boundary of Section 23, then continues north along the east boundary of Section 15, T9S R25E, then continues west along the north boundary of Section 15 to its intersection with Stevenson Creek, then continues due northeast following the National Forest Boundary until intersecting Balsam Creek, then continues in a straight line due northeast to the intersection of Alder Gulch and Huntington Lake road, then continues north on Huntington Lake road to its intersection with Stump Springs road, then continues north along Stump Springs road to its intersection with Forest Road 6S02, then continues north along Forest Road 6S02 to its intersection with Forest Road 6S86, then continues north along Forest Road 6S86 to its intersection with Forest Road 6S81, then continues north along Forest Road 6S81 to its dead end, then continues north along the west boundary of Section 1 and Section 36 of T5S R25E to its intersection with the Ansel Adams Wilderness Boundary, then continues southwest along the Wilderness boundary to its intersection with the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River, then continues north along the Ansel Adams Wilderness Boundary to Squaw Dome, then continues due south in a straight line to the dead end of Forest Road 5S29, then continues south along Forest Road 5S29 to its intersect with Forest Road 4S81, then continues south along Forest Road 4S81 to its intersection with Forest Road 6S01, then continues north and west along Forest Road 6S01 to its intersect with Forest Road 6S71, then continues south along Forest Road 6S71 to its intersection with Forest Road 4S81, then continues south along Forest Road 4S81 to its intersection with Forest Road 7S02, then continues northwest along Forest Road 7S02 to its intersect with Forest Road 6S42, then continues north along Forest Road 6S42 to its intersect with Beasore Road, then continues north along Beasore Road to its intersect with Forest Road 6S10X, then continues northwest along Forest Road 6S10X to its intersect with Forest Road 6S07, then continues west along Forest Road 6S07 to its intersect with Forest Road 5S22, then

continues north along Forest Road 5S22 to its intersect with Forest Road 5S37, then continues northwest along Forest Road 5S37 to the Boundary of Yosemite National Park, then follows the Boundary of Yosemite National Park north and west to its intersect with Highway 140, then continues west along Highway 140 to its intersection with the Sierra National Forest Boundary, then Follows the Sierra National Forest Boundary south and east until it meets Pine Flat Reservoir, then follows the northern boundary of Pine Flat Reservoir to the north and west to its intersection with the Kings River, then continues east along the Kings River back to its starting point , as shown on attached map.

FOREST ORDER 15-14-11
Sierra National Forest
Exhibit C – Designated Recreation Sites

BASS LAKE RANGER DISTRICT

Big Sandy Campground	Mammoth Pool Campground	Whiskey Falls Campground
Whiskers Campground	Nelder Grove Campground	Wishon Point Campground
Chilkoot Campground	Placer Campground	Denver Church Picnic
Crane Valley Campground	Recreation Point Group Campground	Lake Side Picnic
Dirt Flat Campground	Rock Creek Campground	Willow Cove Picnic
Dry Gulch Campground	Soda Springs Campground	Rocky Point Picnic
Fish Creek Campground	Soquel Campground	Pine Point Picnic
Forks Campground	Spring Cove Campground	Lupine/Cedar Bluff Campground
Grey's Mountain Campground	Summerdale Campground	Falls Beach
Jerseydale Campground	Summit Camp Campground	Little Denver Church Picnic
Kelty Meadow Campground	Sweetwater Campground	Pine Slope Picnic
Little Jackass Campground	Texas Flat Group Campground	Rec Point Picnic
		Lower Chiquito Campground

HIGH SIERRA RANGER DISTRICT

Dorabelle Campground
Gigantea Campground
Black Rock Campground
Bretz Mill Campground
Sawmill Flat Campground
Kirch Flat Campground
Kirch Flat Group Campground
Swanson Meadow Campground
Upper Kings Group Campground
Haslett Basin Traditional
Committee Special Use Area

Sierra National Forest Fire Restrictions Forest Order 15-14-11

