



Order No. STF 2015-04
Stanislaus National Forest
CANDY ROCK QUARRY SHOOTING RESTRICTIONS CLOSURE

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a), and to provide for public health, the following acts are prohibited within the Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. This Order is effective from April 29, 2015 through April 28, 2017.

1. Discharging a firearm within the Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area, except from 10 a.m. through 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. through 3 p.m. on Saturday. The Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area includes the Candy Rock Quarry and all National Forest System lands that are 150 yards from the outer boundary of the Quarry, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.58(m).
2. Using an explosive within the Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.52(b).

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 engaged in lawful hunting under the laws of the State of California are exempt from Prohibition No. 1.

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

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 six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed in Sonora, California, this 27th day of April, 2015.


JEANNE M. HIGGINS
Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

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File Code: 1010
Route To: (1950)

Date: April 27, 2015

Subject: Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area STF 2015-04

To: Project File

From: Jeanne Higgins, Forest Supervisor

Candy Rock Quarry is located on the Stanislaus National Forest in a wildland urban interface area approximately one-third mile from the nearest private residential properties. Its accessibility is popular with people participating in recreational target shooting using firearms and, sometimes, setting off exploding targets. The relatively large, flat surface devoid of steep inclines and trip and fall hazards makes it an easy site at which to park vehicles and use firearms.

The Calaveras District Ranger has received written and verbalized complaints from area residents about the shooting activities near and in the quarry. The complaints are about persistent shooting noise and concern for public health on both public and private lands. The District Ranger has also received comments from others expressing a desire to continue using the site for responsible target shooting.

In response, Stanislaus National Forest representatives attended multiple meetings with the local County Supervisor, Sheriff's Office representatives, and concerned citizens expressing their interests and representing each side of the issue. The District enlisted services from the National Rifle Association (NRA) to assess the situation, and the Center for Collaborative Policy as an impartial mediator to meet with both sides and develop potential outcomes.

A series of suggestions were proposed and one common theme involved instituting restrictions on hours of the day target shooting would be permitted, and exploding targets would be prohibited at all hours. As a result, a temporary Forest Order STF-2013-02 was put in place April 29, 2013 but is expiring soon. An Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is being conducted in and around Candy Rock Quarry to study the effects recreational target shooting has upon water, soil, wildlife, recreation, and public health. A long term management strategy will be devised based on the results of the EIS.

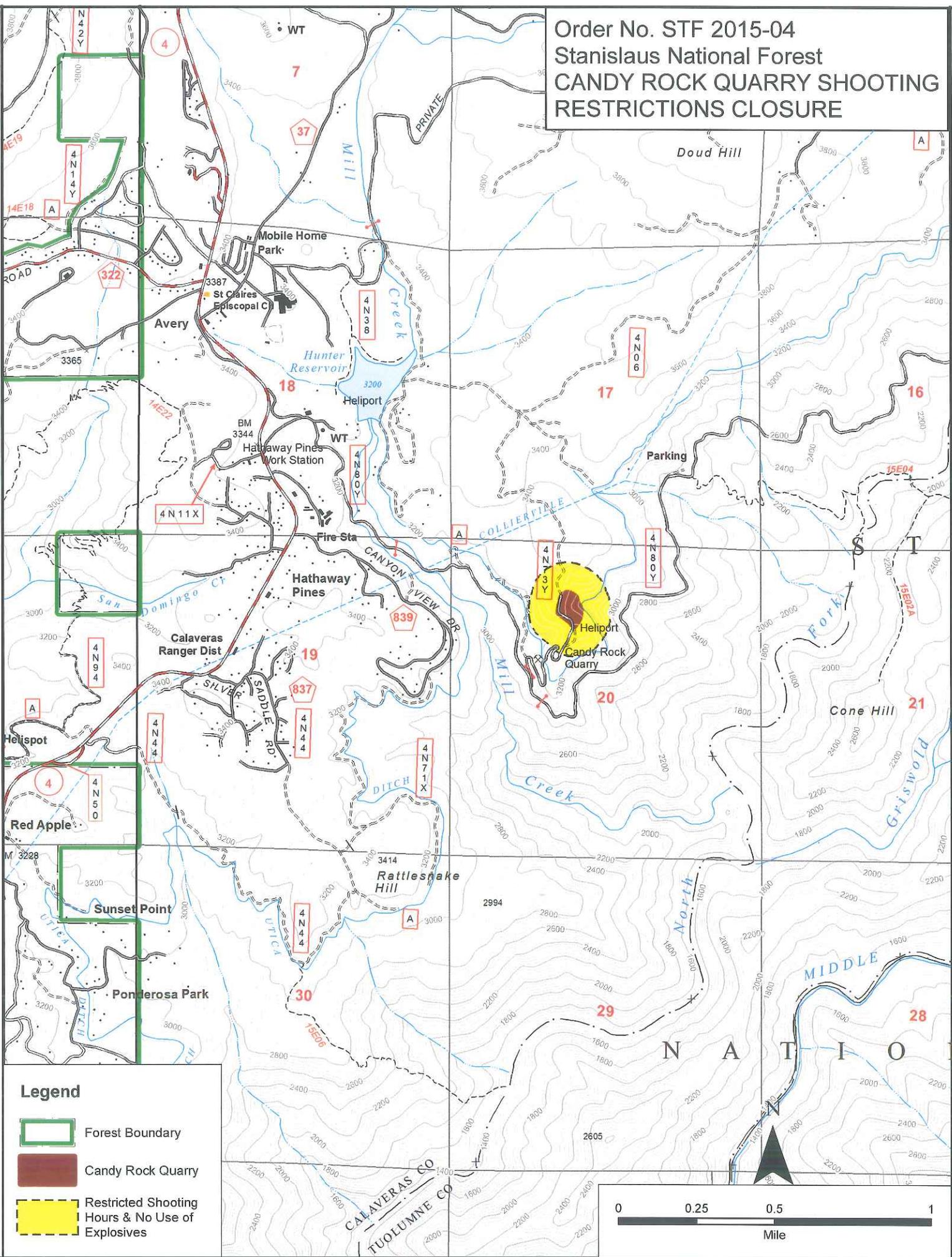
More time is needed to complete the study and determine a strategy. I recommend extending the current restrictions with Forest Order STF 2015-04 until April 28, 2017, in order to continue supporting public health while also providing for recreational target shooting activities.



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.

cc: Stanislaus LEI Patrol Captain, Heidi Rieck or Acting designee

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 RESTRICTIONS CLOSURE



Legend

- Forest Boundary
- Candy Rock Quarry
- Restricted Shooting Hours & No Use of Explosives

