



File Code: 2670  
Route To: File

Date: June 23, 2015

Subject: Forest Order No. 15-15-05 – Sky Fire Closure

From: Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor 

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

On the afternoon of June 18, 2015 at around 2:34 p.m. a fire began on Sky Ranch Road approximately 2 miles from Highway 41 on the Bass Lake Ranger District. By June 20, 2015, the Sky Fire had grown from its original size of 25 acres to over 500.

The purpose of this closure is to provide for public safety and facilitate fire suppression efforts. This restriction is necessary for the purposes of ensuring public safety until the wildfire can be managed to protect the public. Closure of the fire area is necessary to help ensure that no one is injured within or near the fire perimeter. The National Forest System roads within the burned area will also be closed due to fire suppression activities that create a hazard to the public which includes the falling of hazard trees that were weakened by the fire. This closure will remain in effect until the fire is fully suppressed.

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. 15-15-05  
Sky Fire Closure

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Sierra National Forest. This Order is effective from June 24, 2015, until the Sky Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Sky Fire Closure Area. The boundary of the Sky Fire Closure area begins on Forest Road No. 6S11 at Sky Ranch Road, then continues southwest along the western edge of Sky Ranch Road to its intersection with the northern section line of Section 19, T6S, R22E, Mt Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM), then continues west along the northern section line of Section 19, T6S, R22E, MDBM, to its intersection with Forest Road No. 6S97, then continues due southwest to its intersection with the northwest corner of Section 30, T6S, R22E, MDBM, then continues south along the western section line of Section 30, T6S, R22E, MDBM, to its intersection with the Sierra National Forest boundary, then continues south and east along the Forest boundary to its intersection with the southern section line of Section 30, T6S, R22E, MDBM, then continues east along the southern section line of Section 30 and Section 29, T6s, R22E, MDBM, to its intersection with Forest Road No.6S13, then continues north along the western edge of Forest Road No. 6S13 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 6S11, then continues east along the northern edge of Forest Road No. 6S11 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 6S88, then continues north along the western edge of Forest Road No. 6S11 back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
2. Being on any National Forest System road within the Sky Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36CFR 261.54(e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Sky Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

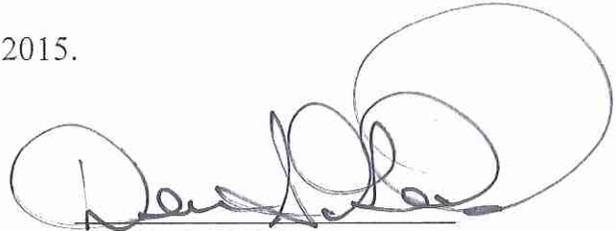
Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited actor 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 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 Clovis, California on June 23, 2015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Gould", written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly stylized with large loops and flourishes.

DEAN GOULD  
Forest Supervisor

