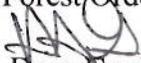




File Code: 2670  
Route To: File

Date: July 31, 2015

Subject: Forest Order No. 15-15-07 – Willow Fire Closure  
From:   
Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor

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

On the afternoon of July 25, 2015 a fire began near the end of Willow Canyon Road at Willow Creek on the Bass Lake Ranger District. By June 28, 2015, the Willow Fire had grown from its original size to over 1,500 acres. As of July 29, 2015 the Willow Fire is 30% contained and has grown to approximately 2,077 acres.

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. All National Forest System roads, within the burned area will 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 and fuel breaks being constructed and maintained along those roads. 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. 15-15-07

Willow 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 August 1, 2015, until the Willow Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Willow Fire Closure Area. The boundary of the Willow Fire Closure Area begins at Shuteye Peak, then continues due south to its intersection with Mormon Hill, then continues due west to its intersection with Forest Road No. 8S09 and County Road 233, then continues west along the northern edge of County Road 233 to its intersection with County Road 225, then continues west along the northern edge of County Road 225 to its intersection with County Road 274, then continues northwest along the eastern edge of County Road 274 to its intersection with Beasore Road, then continues northeast along the eastern edge of Beasore Road to its intersection with the eastern edge of Forest Road No. 6S42, then continues due east 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 Willow Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.54(e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Willow Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

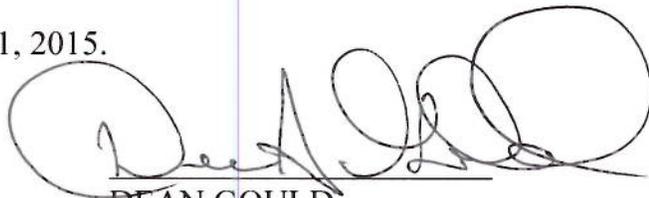
Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

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 July 31, 2015.



DEAN GOULD  
Forest Supervisor