USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Pacific Southwest Region | Los Padres National Forest
6755 Hollister Ave. #150
Goleta, CA 93117

File Code: 2670 **Date:** August 20, 2015
Route To: File

Subject: Forest Order 15-10 – Cuesta Fire Area, Road & Trail Closure

From: Robert A. Baird, Forest Supervisor

I am issuing a Forest Order for public safety to close the area burning as a result of the Cuesta Fire within the Los Padres National Forest. The Cuesta Fire has been a fast growing fire and weather conditions are such that the fire is likely to continue to grow. In addition, there is limited road access to the area creating a potential for visitors to become trapped. Closure of the fire area is necessary to help ensure that no one is injured within the fire perimeter. The National Forest System roads and trails within the burned area will also be closed due to fire suppression activities that create a hazard to the public.

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.

ORDER NO. 15-10
EMERGENCY CLOSURE
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to protect natural resources and provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited on the Santa Lucia Ranger District, within the Los Padres National Forest. This Order is effective from August 21, 2015 through October 1, 2015.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Cuesta Fire Closure Area, as shown on Exhibit A and described in Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.52(e).

2. Being on any National Forest System road within the Cuesta Fire Closure Area, as shown on Exhibit A. 36 CFR 261.54(e).

3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Cuesta Fire Closure Area, as shown on Exhibit A. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

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

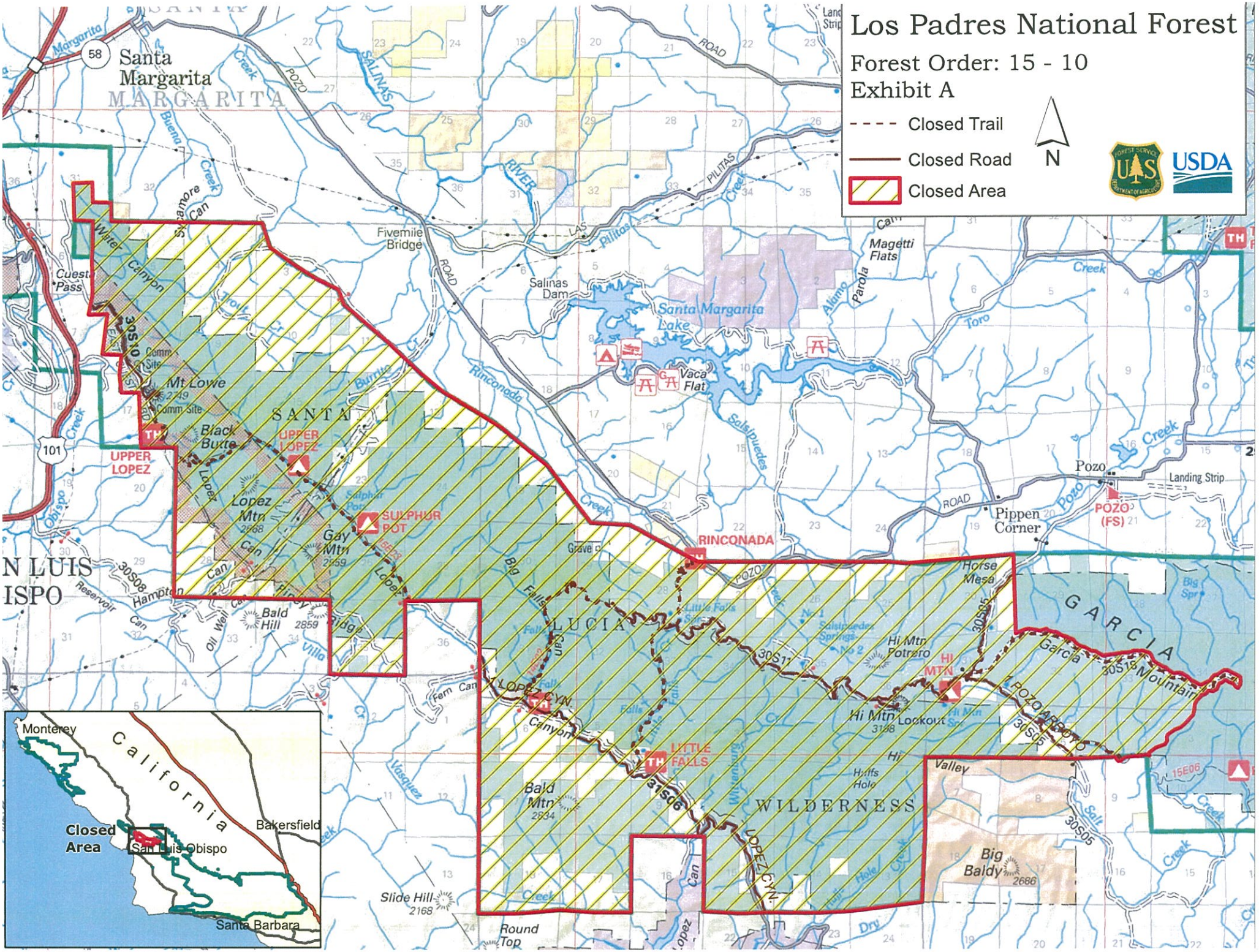
Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

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 $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 20th day of August 2015.

Robert A. Baird
Forest Supervisor
Los Padres National Forest


Los Padres National Forest
Forest Order: 15 - 10
Exhibit A
Closed Trail
Closed Road
Closed Area
N
USDA
Santa Margarita
MARGARITA
Fivemile Bridge
Salinas Dam
Santa Margarita Lake
Vaca Flat
Magetti Flats
Pozo
Landing Strip
POZO (FS)
Pippen Corner
Cuesta Pass
Mt Lowe
Black Butte
UPPER LOPEZ
SULPHUR POT
Lopez Mtn
Gay Mtn
Bald Hill
RINCONADA
LUCIA
LOPEZ CYN
LITTLE FALLS
Bald Mtn
WILDERNESS
Hi Mtn Lookout
HI MTN
Horse Mesa
GARCIA
Garcia Mountain
POZO ALTO
Big Baldy
Slide Hill
Round Top
Monterey
California
Bakersfield
Closed Area
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara

ORDER NO. 15-10
EMERGENCY CLOSURE
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

EXHIBIT B

The boundary of the Cuesta Fire Closure Area begins at the intersection of East Cuesta Road (Forest Road No. 30S10) and the Los Padres National Forest boundary located in Township 30 South, Range 12 East, Section 6, Mt Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues north along 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 its starting point, as shown on Exhibit A.