United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest
Santa Barbara Ranger District
3505 Paradise Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

FOREST ORDER NO. 12-03
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(b), and to protect threatened and endangered species, the following act is prohibited within the Santa Barbara Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest. This Order is effective from April 19, 2012 through April 18, 2013. For the purpose of this Order a wheelchair is not considered to be a motorized vehicle.

> Using any type of motorized vehicle on the Romero Camuesa Road (Forest Road No. 5N15.1), from the locked gate in the west ½ of Section 14, Township 5 North, Range 26 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian, northwest to its terminus, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.54(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 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.

This prohibition is in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of this prohibition 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 17Th day of April, 2012.

Peggy Hernandez
Forest Supervisor
Los Padres National Forest

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

Date: April 18, 2012

Subject: Order No. 12-03
Los Padres National Forest
Romero Camuesa Road (5N15.1) Partial Closure

To: File

From: Peggy Hernandez

For the reasons stated below I have decided to sign and implement Forest Order 12-03.

The proposed Forest Order prohibits vehicle access west of the locked gate located in the W1/2, Sec 14, T5N, R26W, SBM on the Romero Camuesa Road 5N15.1. The purpose of this order is to protect wildlife and their habitat in this recreation area situated adjacent to and in riparian areas. This order is being proposed in collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Romero Camuesa Road (Forest Road 5N15.1) provides one of the access ways between the Lower and Upper Santa Ynez Recreation Areas. The portion of the road that will be part of the closure order goes through one of the water crossings of Agua Caliente Creek. This road provides vehicular access to the following campgrounds: Middle Santa Ynez, P-Bar Flats and Mono. In March of 2012 District Ranger Doug Dodge and Resource Officer Valerie Hubbart informed me that a population of the federally threatened California red-legged frog bred upstream of the crossing and tadpoles have dispersed onto the crossing. Federally endangered arroyo toads have historically bred downstream of the crossing and suitable breeding habitat for the species has been found on the crossing. Mr. Dodge and Ms. Hubbart determined that in order to protect riparian dependent species, including the California red-legged frog, and wildlife breading areas (pools), a portion of the Romero Camuesa Road, Forest Road 5N15.1, should be closed temporarily to public motor vehicle use.

Administrative use would also be prohibited, except during emergency situations. The road will remain closed until April 17, 2013, but maybe open sooner if surveys by a Forest Biologist do not detect any arroyo toad or California red-legged frog on the crossing.

The Forest Order is exempt from NEPA documentation under Category 1 in Section 31.12 of the NEPA Handbook. This category excludes "Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR part 261 – Prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety" from documentation in an EIS or EA unless scooping indicates that there are extraordinary circumstances. In this situation, the closures are expected to be of a temporary nature until the Forest Plan revision develops long-term management direction. I have determined there are resource protection issues involved that are related to motor vehicle use on the Romero Camuesa Road. This Forest Order is exempt from NEPA documentation under Category 1 cited above. Interagency scoping for this proposal has failed to identify any extraordinary circumstances that would require further NEPA documentation at this time.

Order 12 - 03
Los Padres National Forest
Road Closure
MONO
P-BAR FLATS
MIDDLE SANTA YNEZ
Pendola Guard Station
Cottam
Blue Canyon
Gaging Station
Little Caliente Spring
Dam
Ynez 1477
Santa Maria
Los Padres National Forest
Detailed Area
Santa Barbara
Pacific Ocean
Closed Road
1:36,000
1 inch = 0.568 miles
Modified 07/06/2012
D.Bedford