

ORDER
OCCUPANCY AND USE
and
NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM TRAILS

OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), the following act is prohibited on National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Naches Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest as described below and shown on the attached map.

- 1. To go into or be upon any area closed for the protection of public health or safety.** For the purpose of this order, it is prohibited to enter or be upon National Forest System lands or trails within the boundaries of the two areas described below [36 CFR 261.53 (e):

- 2. Being on a trail.** For the purpose of this order, it is prohibited to use or be upon any system or non-system trail within the boundary described below [36 CFR 261.55(a)]. See Exhibit B.

Gold Hill Closure Area: Beginning at the Norse Peak Wilderness Boundary at junction with NFS Union Creek Trail No. 956 (T17N R11E SW ¼ Sec. 4); northwesterly on a line immediately east of and parallel to NFS Union Creek Trail No. 956 to its junction with North Fork Union Creek (T17N R11E SW ¼ Sec. 14); then northwesterly and westerly on a line immediately east and north of and parallel to North Fork Union Creek to Basin Lake (T17N R11E SE ¼ Sec.17); then west on a line immediately north of and parallel to NFS Basin Trail No. 987 to its intersection with NFS Pacific Crest Trail No. 2000 (T17N R11E SW ¼ Sec. 17); then south on a line immediately east of and parallel to NFS Pacific Crest Trail No. 2000 to the junction with the Norse Peak Wilderness Boundary (T17N R11E SW ¼ Sec. 17); then following the Norse Peak Wilderness Boundary south and east to its intersection with NFS Union Creek Trail No. 956 and to the point of the beginning (see Exhibit A: attached).

Kettle Creek Closure Area: Beginning at the William O. Douglas Wilderness Boundary at its junction with Timber Creek (T17N R11E SW ¼ Sec. 35); then south on a line following Timber Creek to its junction with NFS American Ridge Trail No. 958 (T16N R11E NE ¼ Sec. 13); then westerly on a line immediately north of and parallel to NFS American Ridge Trail No. 958 to its intersection with an intermittent drainage at the headwaters of Boulder Creek (T16N R11E SE ¼ Sec. 14); then southeasterly down an intermittent drainage at the headwaters of Boulder Creek and south along Boulder Creek to the intersection with the William O. Douglas Wilderness Boundary (T16N R12E NW ¼ Sec. 28); then northeasterly following the William O. Douglas Wilderness Boundary to its junction with Sunrise Creek (T16N R13E SE ¼ Sec. 6); then northwesterly following Sunrise Creek and its intermittent headwater drainage to American Ridge and the intersection with NFS American Ridge Trail No. 958 (T17N R12E SW ¼ Sec. 25); then easterly on a line immediately south of and parallel to American Ridge Trail No. 958 to the intersection with NFS Pleasant Valley Lake Trail

No. 958B (T17N R13E SW ¼ Sec. Valley Lake Trail No. 958B to its junction with the William O. Douglas Wilderness Boundary (T17N R12E NE ¼ Sec. 23); then westerly following the William O. Douglas Wilderness Boundary and to the point of beginning (see exhibit A: attached).

For the purposes of this order the area descriptions above include NFS trails listed in Exhibit B (attached).

This restriction is effective the date signed below and will remain in effect until rescinded.

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

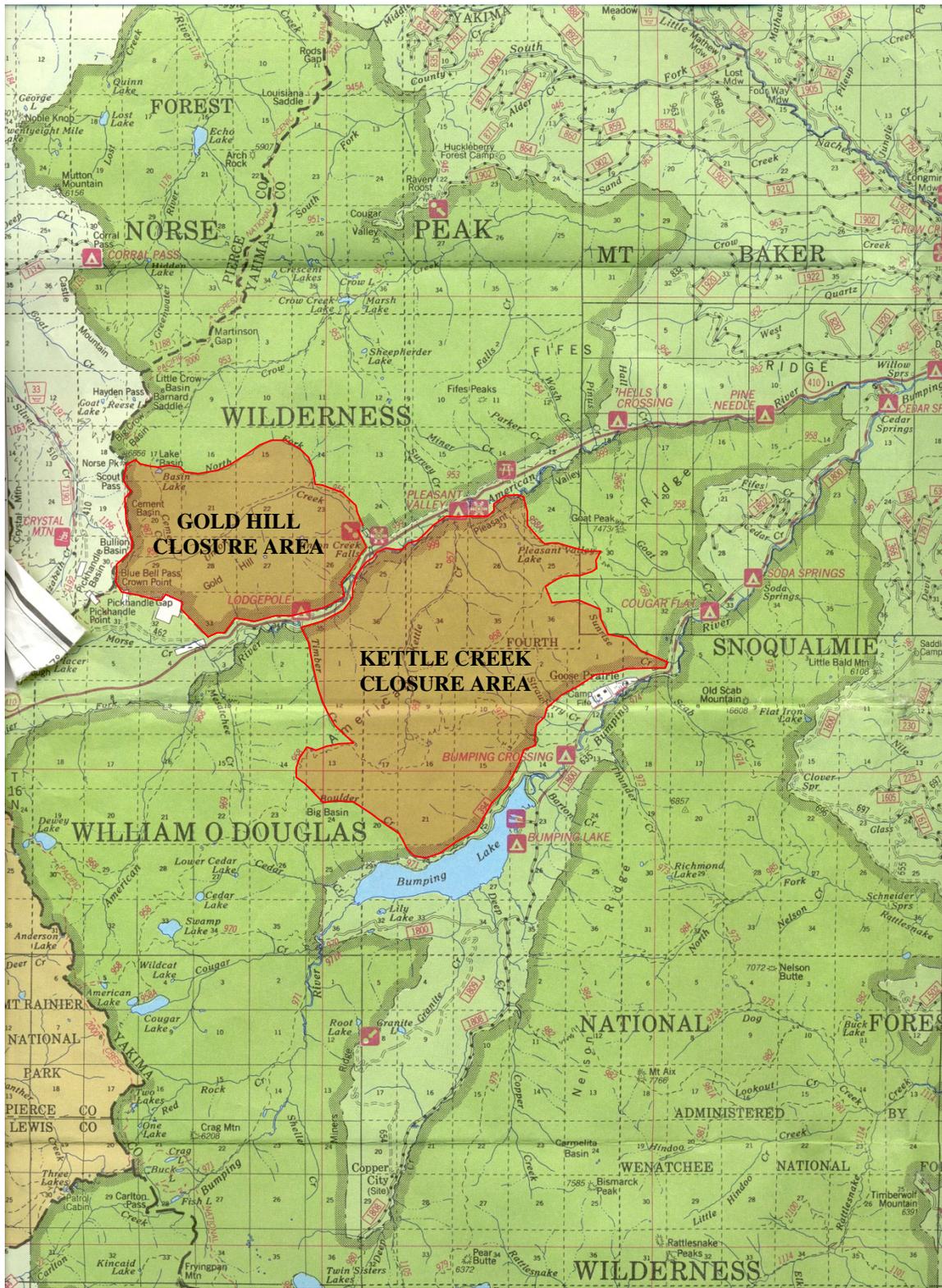
1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

Done at Wenatchee, Washington this 24th day of September 2012.

s/ Maureen Hanson for _____
REBECCA LOCKETT HEATH
Forest Supervisor
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Violations of these prohibitions are 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 6 months or both (16USC551, 18USC3559 and 3571).

EXHIBIT A:
CLOSURE AREAS MAP



Forest Order No. _____

September _____, 2012

**EXHIBIT B:
NFS TRAILS/TRAIL SEGMENTS IN CLOSURE AREA**

Being on a trail. For the purpose of this order, it is prohibited to use or be upon any system or non-system trail within the area boundaries described, including but not limited to the following National Forest Service System Trails [36 CFR 261.55(a)]:

Gold Hill Closure Area

Union Creek Trail 956: Beginning at its intersection with the Wilderness Boundary then north for its entire length.

Basin Trail 987: Beginning at Basin Lake to its intersection with Pacific Crest Trail 2000 near Norse Peak then south to its terminus near Crown Point.

Kettle Creek Closure Area

Kettle Creek Trail 957: Beginning at the Wilderness Boundary then south for its entire length.

American Ridge Trail 958: Beginning at the headwaters of Boulder Creek east to its junction with junction with Pleasant Valley Lake Trail 958B.

Pleasant Valley Lake Trail 958B: Beginning at its junction with Pleasant Valley Loop Trail 999 then south for its entire length.

Goose Prairie Trail 972: Beginning at its intersection with the Wilderness Boundary then north for its entire length.

Pleasant Valley Loop Trail 999: Beginning at its intersection with Pleasant Valley Lake Trail 958B west to its intersection with the Wilderness Boundary (southwest of Union Creek).

Assessment of Need and Enforcement Plan

Background

The Yakima Complex started on Saturday, September 8th during a significant lightning storm. Over 3,000 strikes occurred in Eastern Washington, igniting well over 100 fires. The Yakima Complex was managed by Washington Interagency Incident Management Team #1 (WIIMT#1); the Team focused on lightning fires in Kittitas and Yakima Counties. There were approximately seventy-five fires in the complex. Staffing of each fire was based on assessment of risk to life, communities, and resources.

On September 24, 2012, initial attack responsibilities will shift back to local resources. A smaller type 3 incident management organization will be in place for the Wild Rose Fire. Smoke may be visible on Wild Rose and some of the more remote wilderness fires until snow and rain arrive to fully extinguish them. Fire personnel will continue to patrol and monitor fires in the Yakima Complex.

Because they pose little immediate threat to life and property, a confine/contain suppression strategy has been put in place for both the Kettle Creek Fire in the William O. Douglas Wilderness and the Gold Hill Fire in the Norse Peak Wilderness. Fire growth on these lightning caused incidents has been slow to moderate. Suppression tactics emphasizing MIST strategies will be used to limit fire growth to identified confinement or containment boundaries.

Intent of Subpart Order B

Direction for management actions to be taken on the Kettle and Gold Hill Fires include an evaluation of the need for a Subpart Order B closure on system trail(s) and/or geographic areas to provide for public safety. The responsible line officer, Irene Davidson (District Ranger) met with incident commanders and local resource advisors. It was concluded that closure of NFS system trails and the geographic confinement/containment areas for these fires was necessary to provide for public protection as the fires will be allowed to grow within these boundaries.

This closure is dynamic; it is anticipated that the need for the closure will be evaluated at least weekly, and that any decision to modify or rescind the prohibitions will be made with enough advance time to provide adequate notification for weekend recreation activities.

Enforcement Plan

The following activities need to occur to implement this special order in a manner that results in public safety and acceptance:

Action	Responsible Official	Date
Prepare proposed order	Jacqueline Beidl, READ and Recreation Asst.	September 24, 2012
Agency Representative review of proposed order	Irene Davidson, District Ranger	September 24, 2012
LEI Review of Proposed Order	Blair Bickel, LEO	September 24, 2012
Approve proposed order	Rebecca Heath, Forest Supervisor	September 24, 2012
Post order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51	USFS personnel of the Naches Ranger District	September 24-25, 2012
Prepare news release for local media describing the order and management objectives.	Douglas Jenkins and/or Michelle King, Naches RD PAO and trainee	September 25-26, 2012
Describe implementation/action taken for order, such as planned patrols, enforcement strategies, tolerance, contacts to local public agencies, etc. Implement plan.	<u>Post order and map at the following sites:</u> Naches RD Lobby Union Creek Trailhead Chinook Pass Trailhead Pleasant Valley Trailhead Goat Creek Trailhead American River Trailhead Goose Prairie Trailhead Mesatchee Creek Trailhead <u>Inform public of closure:</u> Press Release (see above) Recreation Report Inciweb.org Central WA State Fair Low-watt Radio Field contacts <u>Enforce closure:</u> Opportunistic field contacts	Ongoing from September 24 th and continuing until termination of the order is written.