

**ORDER NO. 08-12-17**  
**MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST**

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(b), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following act is prohibited within the Upper Lake Ranger District on the Mendocino National Forest. This Order is effective from 8:00 a.m. on November 21, 2012, and will remain in effect until the Mendocino National Forest has received 48 consecutive hours of no measurable precipitation at the Howard Mill rain gauge.

Using a motor vehicle on any National Forest System trail within the Upper Lake Ranger District on the Mendocino National Forest. 36 CFR 261.55(b).

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

- 1) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- 2) Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

This prohibition is in addition to the general prohibitions found 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 6 months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571 and 3581.

Done in Willows, California, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2012.



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SHERRY A. TUNE  
Forest Supervisor  
Mendocino National Forest

11/20/2012 Wet Weather Closure Justification: Upper Lake Rd, Mendocino NF



On 11/16/12 it started raining on the district and by the end of the day we had accumulated 0.59" of precipitation. On 11/17/2012 we accumulated 1.69" of precipitation within a 24 hour period. On Saturday the Upper Lake Ranger District OHV Manager was not on duty but his designated representative, OHV Technician Bob Phillips, was on duty. The Howard Mills RAW unit recorded 2.06" of rain at 16:52 hours on 11/17/2012. OHV Technician Bob Phillips was already off duty by this time so there was no one around on the district to implement the closure order. The next day on 11/18/2012, the Richmond Ramblers were scheduled to have their Bear Foot Family Enduro on the district. OHV Manager Burmann was on duty that day and did an archival search for the Howard Mill RAWs and realized that the district had received over 2" of rain within a 24 hour period.

Mr. Burmann decided to let the event run its course based on the fact that the trails were relatively dry before this most recent wet weather event. The fact that there was a relatively low turnout for the Bear Foot family Enduro (@ 70 riders) also factored in Mr. Burmann's decision to let the event continue as scheduled.

On 11/20/2012, Mr. Burmann and OHV Technician Laura Bates left the Upper Lake Ranger District at 1030 hrs. to collect camp ground fees at Middle Creek, Penny Pines, and Dear Valley CG. As they proceeded up Elk Mountain Road to Penny Pines CG they encountered a torrential downpour of rain. This downpour continued as they proceeded on Upper Dear Valley Road to Dear Valley CG. They observed rain sheeting over the road surface and the inside ditches were full with brown water. They also noticed standing puddles of water on Trail #7 that is located adjacent to Upper Deer Valley Road. They also noticed water running down the length of the trail at certain locations. They proceeded back to the station with the fee tubes. When they got to the bridge at Middle Creek CG on Elk Mountain Road they noticed running water in the West Fork of Middle Creek. When they crossed that bridge 1.5 hours earlier there was no water whatsoever in the stream channel.

When they got back to the Upper Lake station at 1300 hours they noted that the Howard Mill RAWs was showing 1.50" of rain within a 24 hour period. The last time we checked the Howard Mill RAWs it was showing 1.69" of rain within a 24 hour period. We are projecting that we will reach the 2.00" of rain needed to trigger a closure of the Upper Lake OHV trail system by 2400 hours. Due to the fact the trails should have been closed up to this point and with the torrential rain that we are currently experiencing the trails have reached the point of saturation and any motorized traffic on those trails will result in significant resource damage.

Based on the RAWs data from Howard Mill, 2.06 inches of rain fell in 24 hours as of 16:52 November 17. This was followed by 15 hours of no precipitation, then 1/10 of an inch over an hour, then 8 hours of no precipitation. Precipitation began again on November 18 at 18:53 and has not ceased as of 15:53 on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1.85 inches of precipitation has fallen in 24 hours. Because of the previous moisture condition of the trails and the additional rainfall, resource damage is imminent and public safety could be a concern if the OHV trails remain open. Therefore, it is believed the current condition meets the criteria of the administrative record which states the trails will be closed if the District receives "approximately two inches or more of rainfall in the proceeding 24-hour period and/or when trails have become saturated."

# Weather Conditions for TR164



Current time: November 21, 2012 - 0:12 GMT

Most Recent Observations at November 20, 2012 - 23:53 GMT

	23:53	Max since Midnight	Min since Midnight	24 Hour Max	24 Hour Min
Temperature	49.0° F	49.0 at 21:53	46.0 at 8:53	49.0 at 21:53	44.0 at 0:53
Dew Point	49.0° F	49.0 at 21:53	46.0 at 8:53	49.0 at 21:53	44.0 at 0:53
Relative Humidity	100%	100 at 8:53	100 at 8:53	100 at 0:53	100 at 0:53
Wind Speed	0 mph	0 at 8:53	0 at 8:53	0 at 0:53	0 at 0:53
Wind Gust	0 mph	0 at 8:53	0 at 8:53	0 at 0:53	0 at 0:53
Fuel Temperature	49.0° F	49.0 at 21:53	46.0 at 8:53	49.0 at 21:53	45.0 at 0:53
10 hr Fuel Moisture	27 gm	27 at 8:53	27 at 10:53	27 at 0:53	27 at 10:53
Battery voltage	12.30 volt	12.40 at 16:53	12.30 at 8:53	12.40 at 0:53	12.30 at 8:53

Precipitation accumulated since midnight: 1.54", in 24 hours: 1.85"

Tabular Listing: November 19, 2012 - 23:12 through November 21, 2012 - 0:12 GMT

Time(GMT)	Temperature ° F	Dew Point ° F	Relative Humidity %	Wind Speed mph	Wind Gust mph	Wind Direction	Quality check	Precipitation accumulated in	Fuel Temperature ° F	10 hr Fuel Moisture gm	Battery voltage volt
23:53	49.0	49.0	100	0	0		OK	7.94	49.0	27	12.30
22:53	49.0	49.0	100	0	0		OK	7.76	49.0	27	12.30
21:53	49.0	49.0	100	0	0		OK	7.58	49.0	27	12.40
20:53	47.0	47.0	100	0	0		OK	7.54	48.0	27	12.40
19:53	48.0	48.0	100	0	0		OK	7.37	48.0	27	12.40
18:53	48.0	48.0	100	0	0		OK	7.06	48.0	27	12.40
17:53	47.0	47.0	100	0	0		OK	6.97	48.0	27	12.40
16:53	48.0	48.0	100	0	0		OK	6.94	48.0	27	12.40
15:53	47.0	47.0	100	0	0		OK	6.91	48.0	27	12.30
14:53	47.0	47.0	100	0	0		OK	6.91	47.0	27	12.30
13:53	47.0	47.0	100	0	0		OK	6.74	47.0	27	12.30
12:53	47.0	47.0	100	0	0		OK	6.63	47.0	27	12.30
11:53	47.0	47.0	100	0	0		OK	6.56	47.0	27	12.30
10:53	46.0	46.0	100	0	0		OK	6.51	47.0	27	12.30
9:53	46.0	46.0	100	0	0		OK	6.47	46.0	27	12.30
8:53	46.0	46.0	100	0	0		OK	6.43	46.0	27	12.30
7:53	46.0	46.0	100	0	0		OK	6.40	46.0	27	12.40
6:53	46.0	46.0	100	0	0		OK	6.33	46.0	27	12.40
5:53	45.0	45.0	100	0	0		OK	6.27	46.0	27	12.40
4:53	45.0	45.0	100	0	0		OK	6.22	45.0	27	12.40

3:53	45.0	45.0	100	0	0	OK	6.16	45.0	27	12.40
2:53	45.0	45.0	100	0	0	OK	6.11	45.0	27	12.40
1:53	44.0	44.0	100	0	0	OK	6.10	45.0	27	12.40
0:53	44.0	44.0	100	0	0	OK	6.10	45.0	27	12.40
23:53	44.0	44.0	100	0	0	OK	6.09	45.0	27	12.40

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