



Date: March 28, 2013

To: File

From: EDWARD E. ARMENTA, Forest Supervisor

Re: Forest Order No. 05-04-54-13-03, Wilderness campfire restrictions
in the Golden Trout and Hoover Wilderness Areas

The purpose of this Forest Order is to protect natural resources and wilderness values established by the 1964 Wilderness Act within the Golden Trout and Hoover Wildernesses. There are three areas within these wildernesses with campfire restrictions: Chicken Spring Lake within the Golden Trout Wilderness; Rocky Basin Lakes within the Golden Trout Wilderness; and the Twenty Lakes Basin within the Hoover Wilderness. There are numerous campsites situated around the lakes in each area. Visitors have been allowed to build campfires in these areas in the past. Over time, the supply of downed wood and forest duff has been substantially depleted by visitors' campfires. Chicken Spring Lake and the Rocky Basin Lakes are located in a foxtail pine forest, and the Twenty Lakes Basin is located in a whitebark pine forest. These two tree species both grow very slowly and rely on decomposing wood from the trees for nutrient cycling and soil development. The prohibition against campfires is needed to prevent the further depletion of downed wood and ground litter, which are essential to the ecosystem processes in alpine environments.

The objective of the Order is to prevent wilderness visitors from continuing to deplete wood resources in wilderness. The Order is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental analysis as a prohibition to provide short-term resource protection under Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 31.12, Section 1: a Forest Order issued pursuant to 36 CFR Part 261 – Prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety. This is not a project or activity implementing a Land and Resource Management Plan that is documented in a Decision Memo, a Decision Notice, or Record of Decision. There are no extraordinary circumstances that might cause the action to have significant environmental effects; therefore the proposed action is excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment. Extraordinary circumstances would include but are not limited to negative impacts on the following:

1. Steep slopes or highly erosive soils.

This order will not adversely affect steep slopes or highly erosive soils. The retention of downed wood on soils at high elevations will help prevent erosion and aid in soil development.



2. Threatened and Endangered species or their critical habitat.
This order will not adversely affect threatened and endangered species or their critical habitat.
3. Flood plains, wetlands, and municipal watersheds.
This order will not adversely affect flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.
4. Congressionally designated areas, such as Wilderness, Wilderness Study areas, or National Recreation Areas.
This order will protect the natural quality of wilderness character in the Golden Trout and Hoover Wildernesses.
5. Inventoried roadless areas.
There are no inventoried roadless areas within the forest order area.
6. Native American religious or cultural sites.
This order will not affect Native American sites.
7. Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.
This order will not affect archeological sites, or historic properties or areas.

ORDER NO. 05-04-54-13-03
INYO NATIONAL FOREST
GOLDEN TROUT AND HOOVER WILDERNESS AREAS
CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a), and to protect natural resources, the following act is prohibited within those portions of the Golden Trout and Hoover Wilderness Areas that are located within the Inyo National Forest, as shown on Exhibit A. This Order is effective from April 9, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire in the areas listed below.

- a. Within 2/10 of a mile of Chicken Spring Lake in the Golden Trout Wilderness, as shown on Exhibit B.
- b. Within 2/10 of a mile of the Rocky Basin Lakes in the Golden Trout Wilderness, as shown on Exhibit B.
- c. Within the Twenty Lakes Basin in the Hoover Wilderness. The boundary of the Twenty Lakes Basin begins at the intersection of the Hoover Wilderness boundary and the south shoreline of Greenstone Lake, then continues west along the wilderness boundary to its intersection with the Hall Natural Area, then continues north then west along the Hall Natural Area boundary to its intersection with the Yosemite National Park boundary, then continues north along the Yosemite National Park boundary to its intersection with the Shepherd Crest, then continues east along the Shepherd Crest to its intersection with Lundy Creek, 1/10 mile east of Lake Helen, then continues southeast to its intersection with the wilderness boundary, then continues south then west along the wilderness boundary back to the starting point, as shown on Exhibit C.

36 CFR 261.52(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.
3. Persons with a valid wilderness or campfire permit issued by the Forest Service are not exempt from the prohibition listed above, but may use portable stoves or lanterns using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel within the Inyo National Forest.

ORDER NO. 04-04-54-13-03
INYO NATIONAL FOREST
GOLDEN TROUT AND HOOVER WILDERNESS AREAS
CAMPFIRE RESTRICTIONS

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.

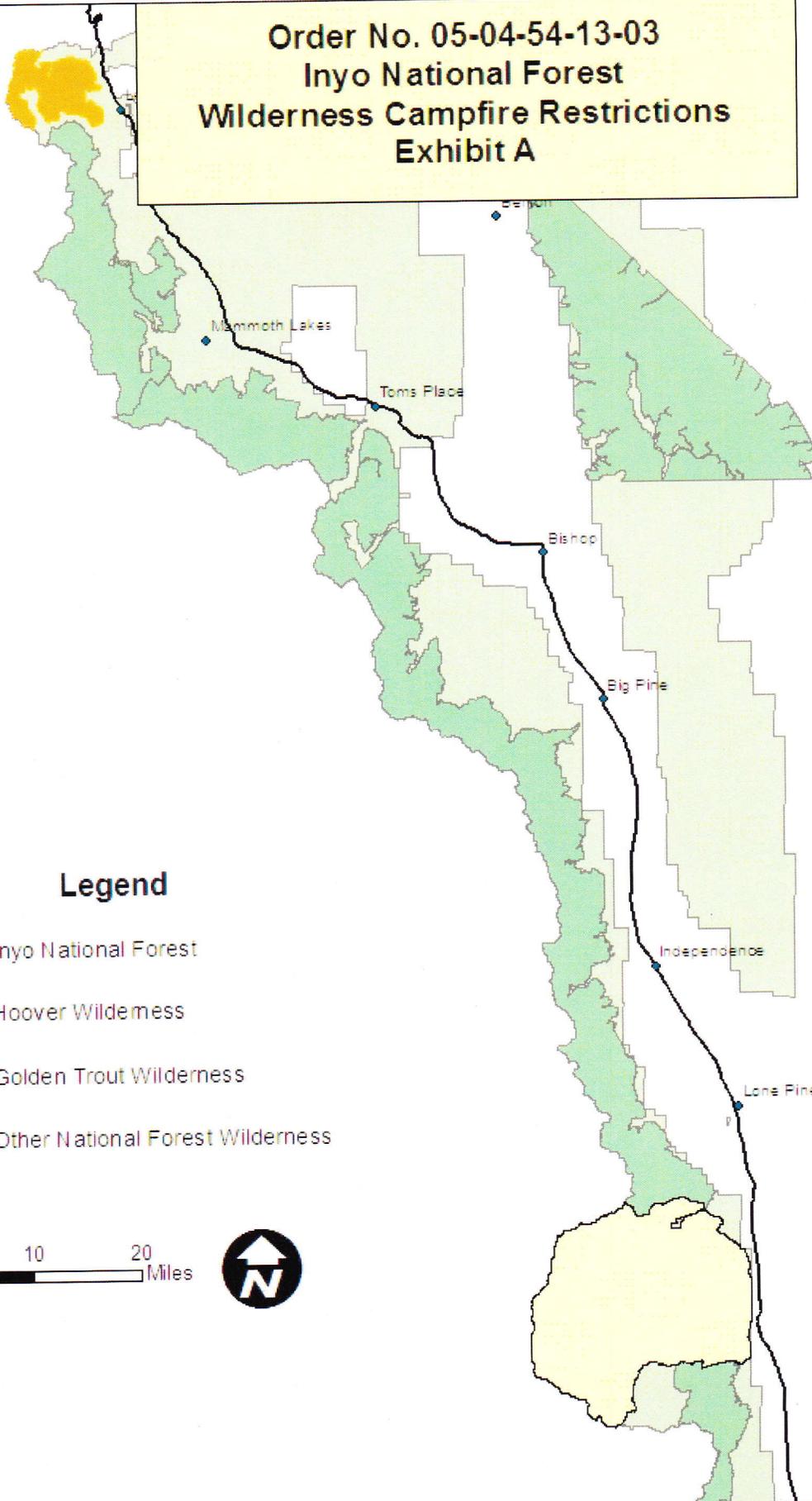
Executed in Bishop, California, this 9th day of April, 2013.



EDWARD E. ARMENTA
Forest Supervisor
Inyo National Forest



Order No. 05-04-54-13-03
Inyo National Forest
Wilderness Campfire Restrictions
Exhibit A



Legend

-  Inyo National Forest
-  Hoover Wilderness
-  Golden Trout Wilderness
-  Other National Forest Wilderness

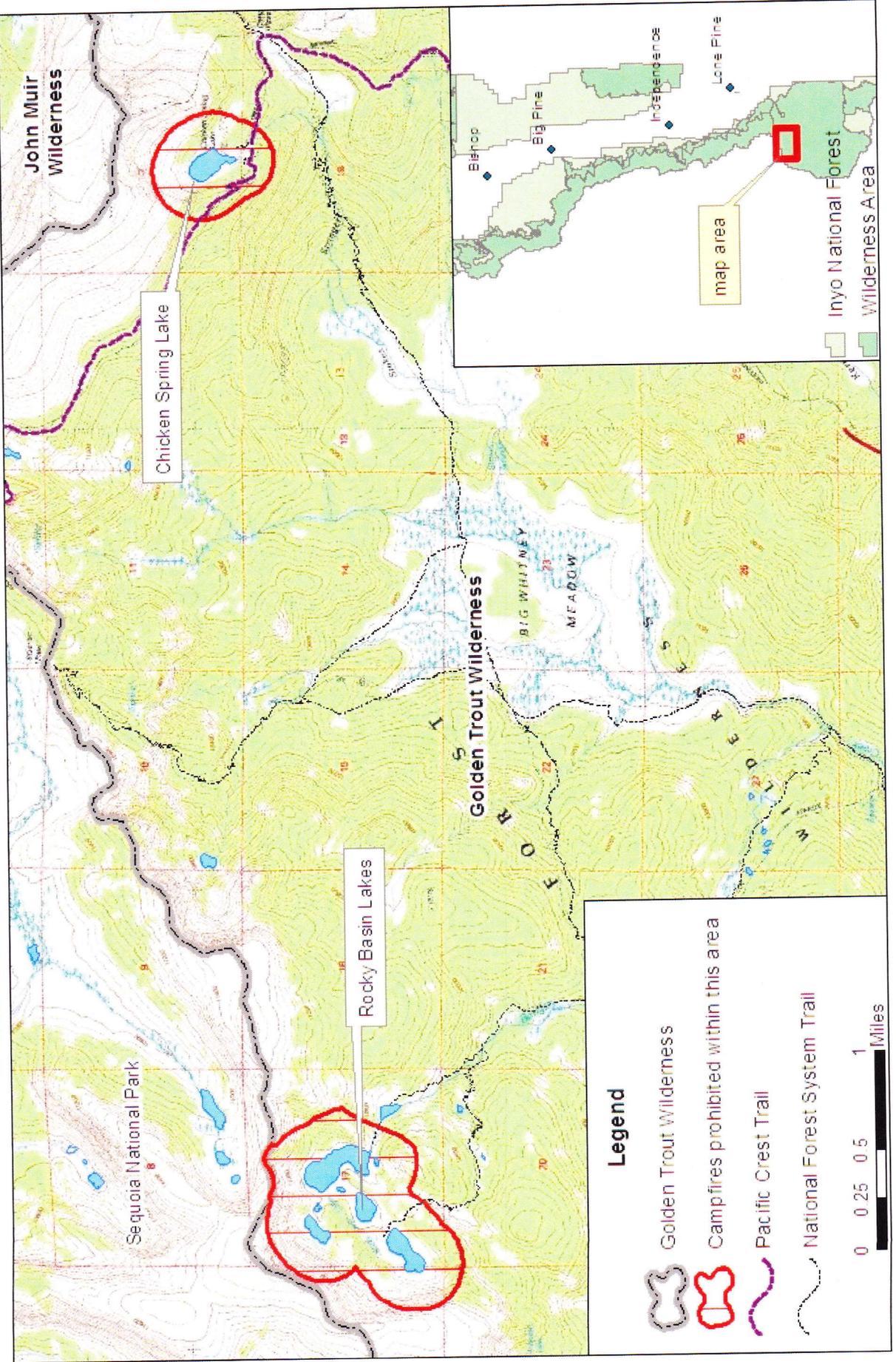
0 5 10 20 Miles





Forest Order 05-04-54-13-03
Inyo National Forest
Wilderness Campfire Restrictions
Exhibit B

Chicken Spring Lake
& Rocky Basin Lakes Areas
Golden Trout Wilderness



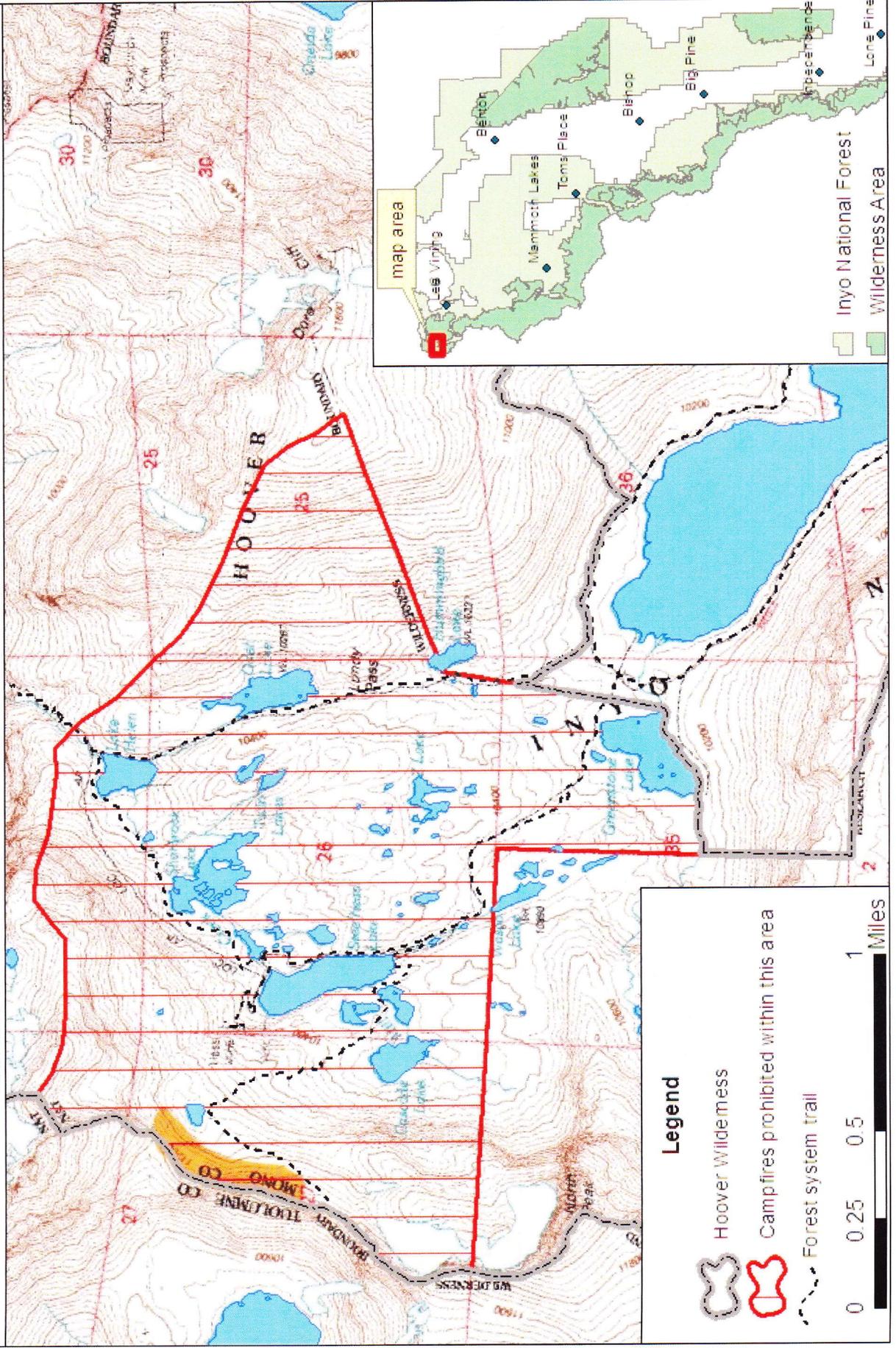


Forest Order 05-04-54-13-03

Inyo National Forest

Wilderness Campfire Restrictions
Exhibit C

Twenty Lakes Basin
Hoover Wilderness



Legend



Hoover Wilderness



Campfires prohibited within this area



Forest system trail

