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Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Stanislaus National Forest

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Date: June 21, 2013

Subject: Temporary Fire Restrictions in the High Hazard Area

To: Project Files

From: Susan Skalski, Forest Supervisor *SS*

The high hazard area of the Stanislaus National Forest is located in Calaveras, Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties, California. The Forest's Fire Management Plan (Appendix A, Wildland Fire Management Program Implementation) and Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5110.4 provide authority and guidance on implementing actions that reduce the risk of certain ignition sources during periods of high fire risk.

Criteria for activating prohibitions in high hazard areas through Forest Orders are based on National Fire Danger Rating System indices and fuel moisture conditions. The Forest currently meets the criteria for activation of restrictions in the high hazard area using the Mt. Elizabeth weather station as the representative site. Indices that can trigger restrictions are: Burning Index is 60 or greater for three consecutive days with a predicted stable or upward trend; dead fuel moistures for thousand-hour time lag fuels are less than 14%; and, Energy Release Component greater than 70. Current conditions reflect a Burning Index ranging in the high 70s with an upward trend, calculated thousand-hour fuel moisture of 9% with an Energy Release Component of 74. Combinations of these data that are above threshold indicate a need for restricting potential fire-causing activities of persons using the high hazard areas.

In response to the situation described above, the Forest Service will issue a temporary Forest Order prohibiting the following activities in the high hazard area:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire;
2. Smoking, except with an enclosed vehicle or building, within exempted Developed Recreation Sites, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material;
3. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with an open flame; or,
4. Using an explosive.

Scoping determined that anticipated effects of this proposed action would be administrative in nature. Minimal ground disturbance will occur, and no other additional impact on any natural resources will occur with the implementation of this proposed action. The public notification of these restrictions occurred via a press announcement published by the local newspapers.



**ORDER NUMBER STF 2013-05**  
**Temporary Fire Restrictions in the High Hazard Area**  
**Stanislaus National Forest**

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety and protect natural resources, the following acts are prohibited within the High Hazard Area of the Stanislaus National Forest, as shown on Exhibit A and described in Exhibit B. This Order is effective from June 22, 2013, through the end of the official 2013 fire season.

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire, except in the Developed Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit C. 36 CFR 261.52(a).
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, within the Developed Recreation Sites listed in Exhibit C, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material. 36 CFR 261.52(d).
3. Welding, or operating an acetylene or other torch with an open flame. 36 CFR 261.52(i).
4. Using an explosive. 36 CFR 261.52(b).

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. Persons with a valid California Campfire Permit are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, persons with a valid California Campfire Permit may use a portable stove or lantern using gas, jellied petroleum, or pressurized liquid fuel.
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 Special Use Permit from the Forest Service for a recreation residence on National Forest System lands within the High Hazard Area are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, persons with a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service for a recreation residence on National Forest System lands within the High Hazard Area may use a campfire or stove fire at their recreation residence.

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 \$5,000.00 for an individual or \$10,000.00 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 Sonora California, this 21, day of June, 2013.

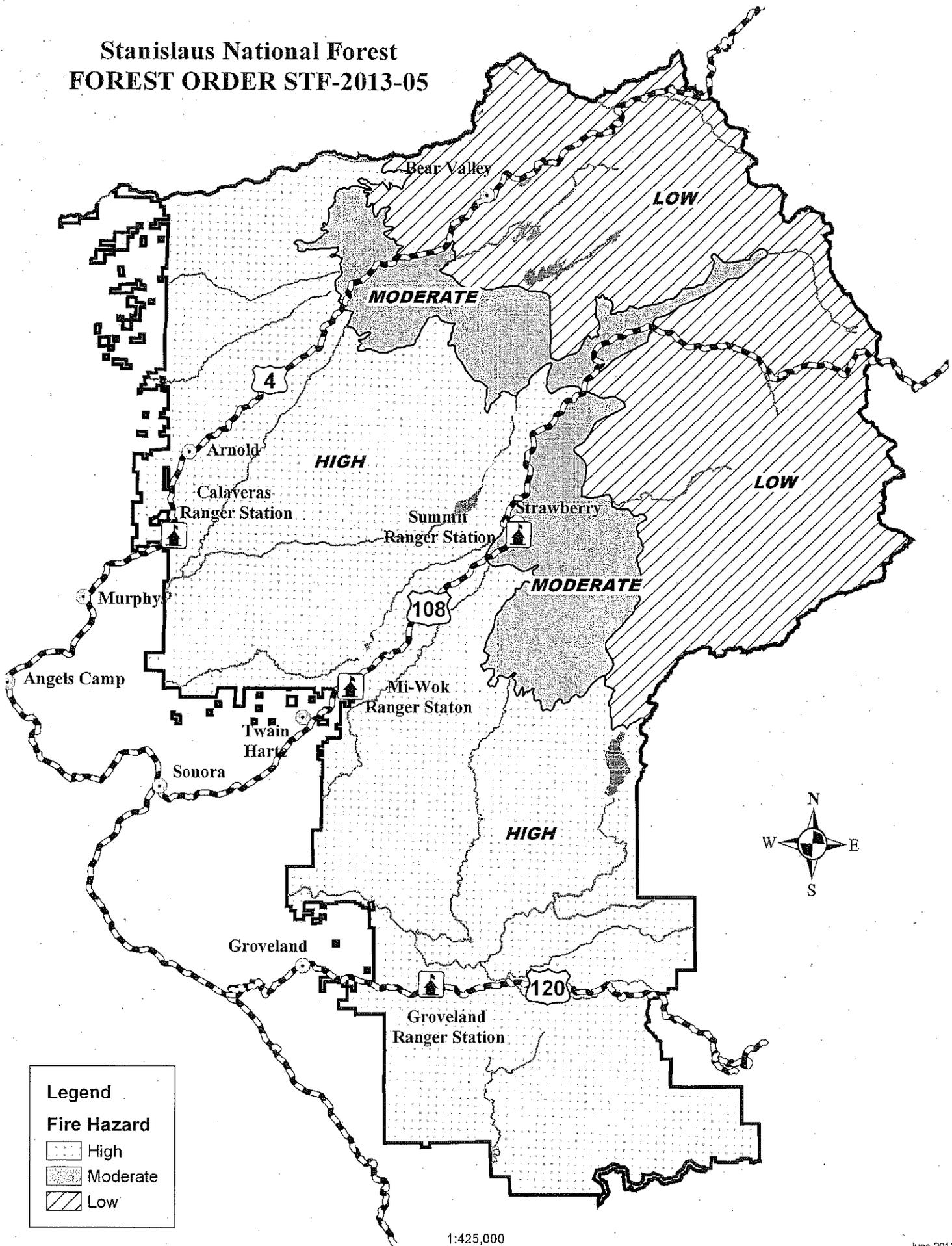
/s/ Susan Skalski  
SUSAN SKALSKI  
Forest Supervisor  
Stanislaus National Forest

## **EXHIBIT B: HIGH HAZARD AREA DESCRIPTION**

### **Forest Order STF 2013-05 Stanislaus National Forest**

The eastern boundary of this High Hazard Area begins at a point ½ mile south of the Mokelumne River along the Mokelumne Wilderness Area boundary, then continues southeast along the Mokelumne Wilderness Area boundary to its intersection with the section line between sections 4 and 5 of Township 7 North, Range 17 East, then continues southwest to its intersection with the east end of Forest Road No. 7N16, then continues west to its intersection with Forest Road No. 7N09, then continues southwest to its intersection with Forest Road No. 7N23, then continues south and east across Highway 4 to its intersection with the Calaveras/Tuolumne county line, then continues south to its intersection with Big Rattlesnake Creek, then continues east to its intersection with Forest Road No. 6N17, then continues south to its intersection with Forest Road No. 5N14, then continues east to its intersection with Forest Road No. 6N05, then continues north to its intersection with Shoofly Creek, then continues east to its intersection with the Middle Fork of the Stanislaus River, then continues south to its intersection with Highway 108, then continues south to its intersection with the Summit/MiWok Ranger District boundary, then continues east to its intersection with Forest Road No. 4N33, then continues south to its intersection with Forest Road No. 3N01, then continues southeast to its intersection with the Emigrant Wilderness Area boundary, then continues southeast to its intersection with the Yosemite National Park boundary, then continues south along the Stanislaus National Forest boundary to its intersection with the Sierra National Forest Boundary, then continues west, north and east along the boundary of the Stanislaus National Forest back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map.

Stanislaus National Forest  
FOREST ORDER STF-2013-05



**Legend**  
**Fire Hazard**

- High
- Moderate
- Low

1:425,000