Order No. STF 2013-08
Rim Fire Closure
Stanislaus National Forest

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Groveland Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. This Order is effective from August 22, 2013 until the Rim Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon any National Forest System land within the Rim Fire Closure Area. The Rim Fire Closure Area boundary begins at the southeast corner of the Stanislaus National Forest boundary at its intersection with the Yosemite National Park boundary and the Merced River, then continues west along the southern edge of the forest's congressional boundary to its intersection with the North Fork of the Merced River, then continues north along the North Fork of the Merced River to its intersection with Forest Road No. 2S05 (Greeley Hill Rd.), then continues west along Greeley Hill Road to its intersection with Smith Station Road, then continues north along Smith Station Road to its intersection with Highway 120, then continues west along Highway 120 to its intersection with the forest's congressional boundary, then continues north and northwest along the forest congressional boundary to its intersection with Hunter Creek, then continues east along Hunter Creek to its intersection with Forest Road No. 1N01, then continues northwest along Forest Road No. 1N01 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 2N11, then continues northeast along Forest Road No. 2N11 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 1N04, then continues east along Forest Road No. 1N04 to its intersection with Cotton Wood Creek, then continues southeast along Cottonwood Creek to its intersection with the Clavey River, then continues south along the Clavey River to its intersection with Reed Creek, then continues northeast along Reed Creek to its intersection with Cottonwood Road and Forest Road No. 3N01, then continues east along Cottonwood Road to its intersection with the forest boundary, then continues south and east along the forest boundary to its intersection with the southern boundary line of Sections 17 and 16 in Township 1North Range 19 East then continues east along the southern boundary of Sections 17 and 16 to the forest boundary, then continues southeast along the forest boundary back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(e).

2. Being on the National Forest System roads listed below and shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.54(e).

    a. Any National Forest System road within the Rim Fire Closure Area.

b. Forest Road No. 1N07 from its intersection with Forest Road No. 1N98, then south to the Rim Fire Closure Area boundary.

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.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 26261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions 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 Sonora, California, this 22nd day of August, 2013.

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

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File Code: 1010
Route To: (1950)

Date: August 18, 2013

Subject: Rim Fire Closure

To: Project Files

From: Susan Skalski, Forest Supervisor

On August 17, 2013, the Rim Fire started along Jawbone Ridge on the Groveland Ranger District near the confluence of the Clavey River and Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River in Tuolumne County. Currently, crews and firefighters are working an active fire in which fire behavior is unpredictable and dangerous to the public. Tree snags and burning vegetation in the fire area present unsafe conditions for public use. Crews and equipment will be using the roads and trails in the closure area causing potential congestion of these areas and a hazardous condition. As a result, I have decided to close public access to the Rim Fire area until the Rim Fire is declared out. The closure area is based on current and expected fire behavior and area of predicted fire spread.

An individual road has been identified and included within the Rim Fire Closure Area. Road 1N07 is closed from its intersection with Road 1N98 to the contiguous fire boundary. This Forest Service road runs through private land owned by Sierra Pacific Industries. Because Sierra Pacific Industries lands adjacent to Forest Road 1N07 are private property, the Rim Fire Closure Order does not include these lands within the Closure Area. There are no private residences on Sierra Pacific Industries property. Road 1N07 and its multiple spur roads lead to lands within the National Forest System that are within the Rim Fire Closure Area. Unrestricted access on this road is dangerous to the public's safety and could impact emergency responders to the area driving heavy equipment, large trucks, emergency vehicles, and personnel carriers.

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 Forest Service will install signs to alert the public to these prohibitions.

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This actions falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 215.12(f), this decision is not subject to administrative appeal. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure and the procedures for legal notice and opportunity to comment (36 CFR 214.4) do not apply to this project. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

Cc: Rita Plair-Wears

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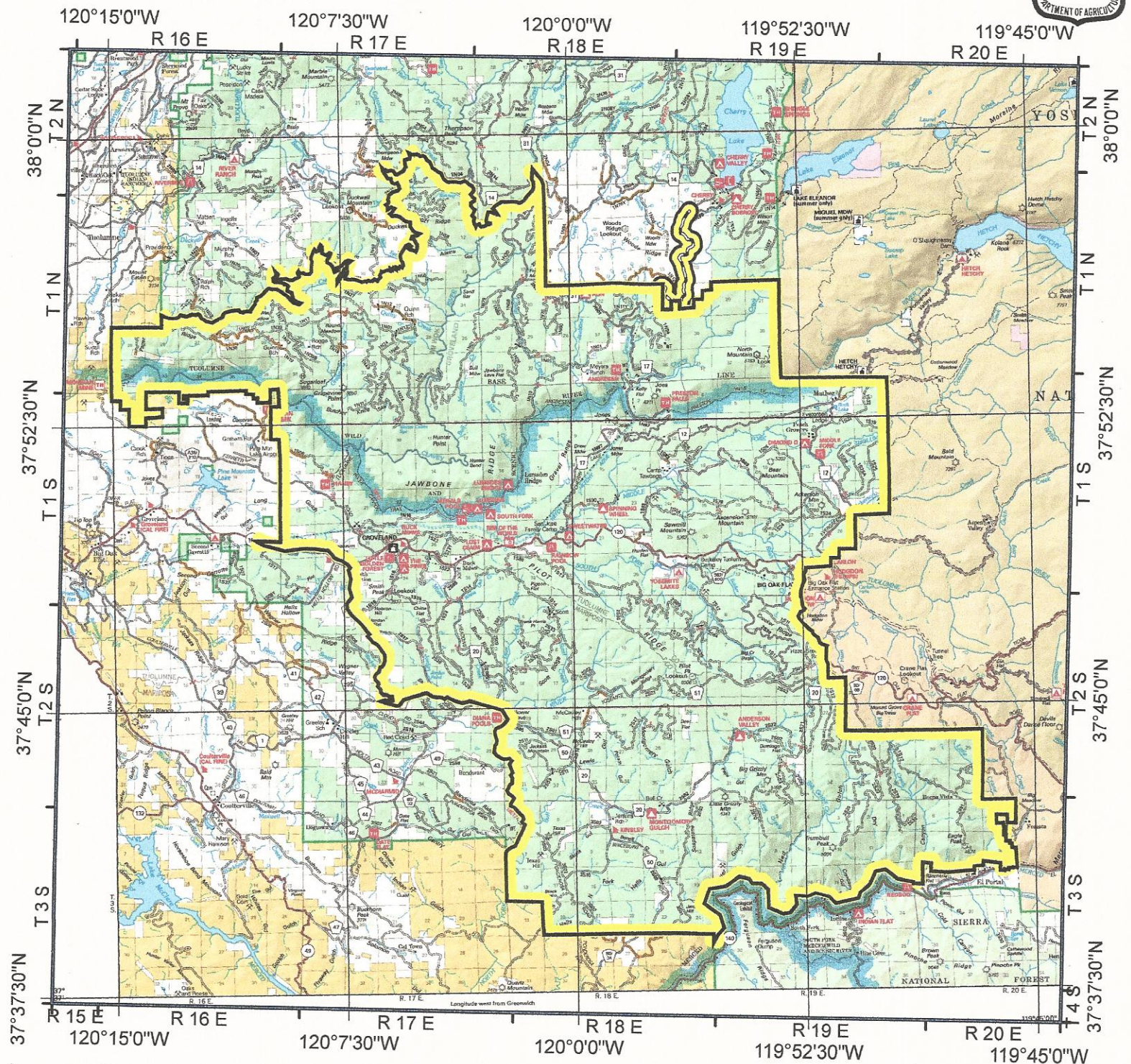
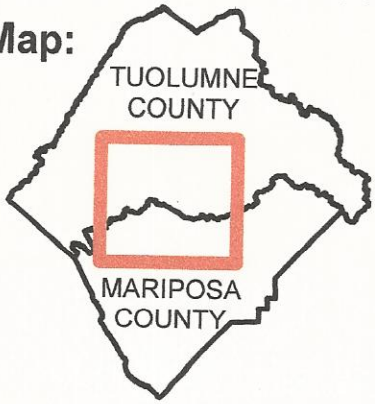
Forest Order STF 2013-08



Legend:

- Closure Area Boundary
- Road Closure

Vicinity Map:



D. Vaughn 8/21/2013