



**Order No. STF 2013-11
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 and Mi-Wok Ranger Districts of the Stanislaus National Forest. This Order is effective from September 13, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

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 intersection of the southeast corner of the Stanislaus National Forest boundary and the Merced River, then continues west along the forest 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, then continues west along Forest Road No. 2S05 to its intersection with Greeley Hill Road, 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 boundary, then continues north along the forest boundary to its intersection with Highway 108, then continues northeast along Highway 108 to its intersection with the Miwok Ranger District boundary, then continues east along the Miwok Ranger District boundary to its intersection with the Groveland Ranger District boundary, then continues east along the Groveland Ranger District boundary to its intersection with the Yosemite National Park boundary, then continues south along the Yosemite National Park boundary back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
2. Being on any National Forest System road within the Rim Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.54(e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Rim Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.55(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.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, 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 12th day of September, 2013.

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

This Order supersedes Order No. STF 2013-10, dated August 31, 2013.



United States
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Agriculture

Forest
Service

Stanislaus National Forest

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File Code: 1010
Route To: (1950)

Date: September 12, 2013

Subject: Rim Fire Closure

To: Project Files

From: Susan Skalski, Forest Supervisor *SS*

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 congestion of these areas and a hazardous condition. As a result, I have decided to close public access to the Rim Fire area. The closure is based on current and expected fire behavior and the area of predicted fire spread. The closure is also based on current fire area rehabilitation needs. This order will be in effect until December 31, 2013 or until replaced or rescinded. This Forest Order STF 2013-11 replaces the previous Forest Order STF 2013-10.

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.

This order includes an exemption for persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission. We have recently received requests for access to the closed area from members of the public. All requests for a permit authorized by this exemption will be submitted to the Rim Fire Incident Command Post, Tuolumne City, California. The criteria for granting written authorization for access to the Rim Fire Closure Area and the roads therein will be as follows:

1. The applicant must provide a reasonable explanation for the need to access the closed area,
2. The applicant must possess personal protective equipment appropriate for the dangers present in the area to which access is requested,
3. The applicant must understand and accept the risk of entering the closed area,
4. I or my delegate must determine that the risk to personal health and safety is reasonable considering the circumstances of the request.



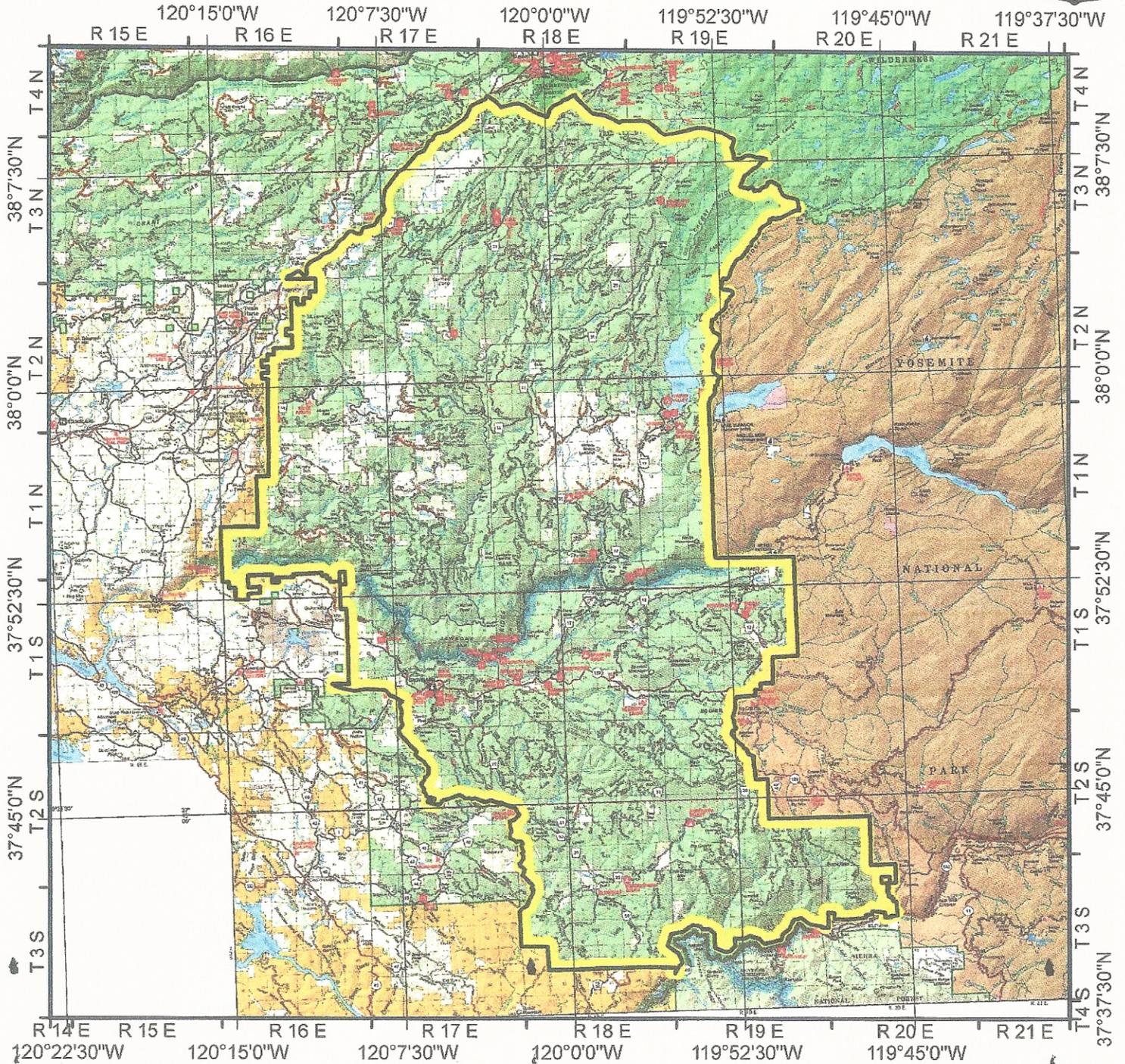
Written authorization may allow access to only a circumscribed portion of the closed area. If I am unavailable at the time a request is received, I hereby grant Groveland District Ranger Maggie Dowd and Mi-Wok Acting District Ranger Fred Wong the authority to sign any and all written authorizations for entry into the closed area. In the event that Ms. Dowd or Mr. Wong is unavailable, I hereby grant the authority to sign any and all written authorizations for entry into the closed area to the individual designated by Ms. Dowd or Mr. Wong as Acting District Ranger for only the period of Ms. Dowd or Mr. Wong's absence. Each written authorization provided for access to the closed area should be accompanied by a Rim Fire Entry Request completed and executed by the Rim Fire Incident Command Team.

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 action 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 Wears-Plair

Rim Fire Closure

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Legend:

 Closure Area Boundary

Map Extent:

