

MEMORANDUM

15-13-11

To: Project File

From: Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor 

Date: October 4, 2013

Subject: Fire Restrictions (**Low and Moderate Fire Hazard Areas**)

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), I will be cancelling the 2013 Sierra National Forest Fire Restriction Order in the **Moderate** and **Low Hazard Areas**. The following narrative explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing and cancelling restrictions on fire use within the Sierra National Forest. The Sierra National Forest "Fire Restrictions and Emergency Closure Plan" approved August 12, 2004 and the Forest Service Manual 5110.4 gives authority and guidance on implementing actions that reduce the risk of certain ignition sources.

Criteria for cancellation of prohibitions through Forest Orders are based on National Fire Danger Rating System Indices and fuel moisture conditions. Forest Fire Management Staff have reviewed these criteria and established that the Moderate and Low Fire Hazard areas have met those criteria for the cancellation of the prohibitions, with weather predictions showing either stable or cooling conditions into the future as well as higher relative humidity. The following table shows a listing of the criteria by Fire Hazard Area and the current conditions on the forest.

HAZARD AREA	Criteria	9/30-10/04 Status on Forest
HIGH (NFDR Area 528, 529) Jerseydale Miami North Fork Batterson Mtn. Rest Trimmer	NFDR BURNING INDEX 60+ for 3 consecutive days with predicted stable or upward trend	NFDR BURNING INDEX: Avg. 78, High 125 Trimmer, Low 39 Mtn. Rest
	AND	
	In Brush-Type Fuels:	LIVE FUEL MOISTURE: 63% Manzanita BLRD Kinsman 64% Manzanita HSRD Buckeye Heliport 61% Manzanita HSRD Barnes Mtn.
	LIVE FUEL MOISTURE	
	<80% Chamise or <100% Manzanita	
	Timber-Type Fuels: Dead 1000 hr. Timelag Fuels <14%	Timber-Type Fuels: Dead 1000 hr. Timelag Fuels 6%
MODERATE (NFDR Area 532) Minarets Fence Meadow	NFDR BURNING INDEX 80+	NFDR BURNING INDEX: Avg. 45, High 57 Fence, Low 33 Minarets.
	AND	
	In Brush-Type Fuels:	
	LIVE FUEL MOISTURE	
	<80% Chamise or <100% Manzanita	
	Timber-Type Fuels: Dead 1000 hr. Timelag Fuels <13%	
LOW (NFDR Area 533)	NFDR BURNING INDEX 80+	NFDR BURNING INDEX: Avg. 39, High 58 Dinkey, Low 28 High Sierra. Temp. Low 29, High 36, RH 60-90%
	LIVE FUEL MOISTURE Brush-Type Fuels:	

Mt. Tom High Sierra Dinkey	<80% Chamise or <100% Manzanita Timber-Type Fuels: Dead 1000 hr. Timelag Fuels <12%	LIVE FUEL MOISTURE: KREW Bull 91% Manzanita
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9/26 Observed weather conditions on the KREW Bull Project site showed a light dusting of snow after 1/3 inch of rain that occurred on 9/21. From resources suppressing fires on the High Sierra RD 9/22 – 9/23, “we have observed the fire behavior to be moderate at best during the day-light hours and very low potential growth at night with the latest precipitation we have received recently. These fires were located between 6000’- 9000’ in elevation and ranged from 0.10 – 0.25 acres in size. Night Observation: majority of the heat remained in the 1000 hr. fuels with fire creeping outward, but going out once away from the heat source (1000hr fuel)”.

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 cancellation, and the procedures for legal notice and opportunity to comment (36 CFR 215.4) do not apply to this project. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.