

ORDER NO.02-15-02
EMERGENCY CLOSURE
CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to protect natural resources and provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited on the Trabuco Ranger District within the Cleveland National Forest. This Order is effective from October 7, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Silverado Fire Closure Area. The Silverado Fire Closure Area boundary is located in Township 5 South, Range 7 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian (SBBM). The Silverado Fire Closure Area boundary begins on the section line between Sections 9 and at a point 10, 3960 feet south of the intersection of the section lines between Sections 3, 4, 9, and 10; then continues north along the section line between Sections 3, 4, 33, and 34, for 9240 feet; then continues east along the section line between Sections 1, 6, 31, and 36 for 15,840 feet; then continues south along the section line between Sections 7, 12, 13, and 18 for 10,560 feet; then continues west- northwest along the section line between Sections 10, 11, and 12 for 10,560 feet back to the starting point, as shown on attached map.
36 CFR 261.52(e).
2. Being on the National Forest System roads listed below and shown on attached map.
 - a. Any National Forest System road within the Silverado Fire Closure Area.
 - b. Forest Road No. 3S04, from its intersection with the Silverado Fire Closure Area boundary in Section 35, Township 4 South, Range 7 West, SBBM, then continuing north to its intersection with Forest Road No. 4S07.
 - c. Forest Road No. 3S04, from its intersection with the Silverado Fire Closure Area in Section 35, Township 4 South, Range 7 West, SBBM, then continuing east to its intersection with Forest Road No. 4S03.
 - d. Forest Road No. 5S04, from its intersection with the Silverado Fire Closure Area in Sections 7 and 12, Township 5 South, Range 6 West, SBBM, then continuing east and south to its end point.

36 CFR 261.54(e).

3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Silverado Fire Closure Area, as shown on attached map. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Any Federal, State or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
2. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

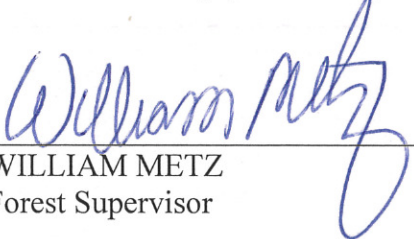
3. Owners or lessees of private land within the Silverado Fire Closure Area, to the extent necessary to gain access to their land.

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 \$5000 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.

Done at San Diego, California, this 6th day of October, 2015.



WILLIAM METZ
Forest Supervisor



Date: October 6, 2015

TO: File

FROM: William Metz/ Forest Supervisor

WM 10/6/15

RE: FOREST ORDER NO. 02-15-02/ Emergency Closure

I have decided to issue a Forest Order authorizing a temporary closure of a portion of the Trabuco Ranger District in the Silverado Fire burn area and adjacent locations with the addition of a class of persons and areas exempt from the Order. The area affected encompasses areas of Silverado Canyon and adjacent locations affected by fire, an area of approximately 3,600 acres, as shown on Exhibit A. The restrictions will be in effect from October 7, 2015 through September 30, 2016, to address resource protection, protection of public property, and public health and safety concerns related to the ongoing watershed emergency.

There is a need for this action because of the threat to human life, property, and resource values threatened by the wildfire and consequent watershed emergency. There are numerous natural hazards created by the fire still existent, such as tree snags, rolling debris, and unstable slopes. An additional threat to public safety created by the fire is flash flooding caused by loss of vegetation and exposed soils. Specific to the area are roads entering and exiting the affected closure area, roads 5S04 and 3S04 pose a potential public safety concern in relation to slope failure, rolling debris, and rock fall causing potential hazardous conditions. The areas surrounding the road segments 5S04 and 3S04 are primarily inaccessible from the public due to steep terrain, steep slopes, and limited access. The primary access points for the surrounding areas are the road segments themselves, thus implementing these road closures will provide for public health and safety and resource protection concerns.

The time frame of a closure normally includes the first season of precipitation; however, the extended period of drought in southern California has affected the regrowth of vegetation in the burn area. The lack of precipitation on the burned slopes and the predicted onset of potentially elevated El Niño-driven storms have extended the period of concern for severe flash flooding and or mud flows in the Silverado burn area and adjoining areas. Increases in flows and erosion rates including debris flows much higher than normal are expected for several years with the greatest increases the 1st and 2nd year following the fire before returning to normal background levels. Most of the pre-fire area was covered in mixed chaparral, chamise, and California sagebrush that are expected to recover to greater than 30% cover within two years. Silverado Canyon has geology and soils that are prone to mass wasting and have an erosion hazard rating of "Very Severe." In the burn area, most of the slopes are over 50% gradient, and the topography of the area is steep with sensitive soils, which invites erosion when traversed by either mechanical means or on foot. Gullies and evidence of past slope failures are evident in the canyon and in the burn area. During multiple field visits over the last year, FS personnel have observed new slope failures, rock fall, and dry ravel in the burn area. To-date, Silverado Canyon



has already experienced several debris flows, including during the July 19, 2015 storm, and debris flows during the month of September, 2015.

The topography of the area is steep with sensitive soils, which invites erosion when traversed by either mechanical means or primitive means.

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. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

1. Steep slopes or highly erosive soils.

This action will promote retention of natural vegetation that will help stabilize the steep slopes and highly erosive soils located within the restricted area.

2. Threatened and Endangered species or their critical habitat.

One of the reasons for this action is to protect threatened and endangered species and their habitats, by promoting restoration of the watershed upstream.

3. Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.

This action will minimize impacts on flood plains, wetlands, and municipal watersheds.

4. Congressionally designated areas, such as Wilderness, Wilderness Study areas, or National Recreation Areas.

There are four congressionally designated Wilderness Areas within the Forest, but none are affected by this Closure.

5. Inventoried Roadless areas.

There are 13 Inventoried Roadless areas comprising approximately 88,000 acres within the Cleveland National Forest. IRAs on NFS lands within T. 5S, R. 7W, Sections 3, PB39, 10, and 11; (approximately 120 acres) will be within the closure area. The effects of closing off these burned areas from public use will be benign, based on scale, and its temporary nature.

6. Research Natural areas.

There are three Research Natural Areas within the Forest. These will not be affected by the restrictions.

7. Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites or historic properties or areas.

No Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites or historic properties or areas have been identified within the area of the closure. Other such resources will not be affected by the closure.



Coordination with the following co-operating agencies was conducted prior to implementation of the closure order:

- Orange County
 - County Supervisor Todd Spitzer, 3rd District
 - OC Fire Authority
 - OC Public Works
 - OC Sheriff's Department
- Riverside County
 - County Supervisor John Tavaglione, 2nd District
 - Sheriff's Department
 - Cal Fire Department
- State of California
 - Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- U. S. Congressman John Campbell, 45th District
- U. S. Congressman Ken Calvert, 42nd District

No significant issues were raised during these scoping conducted with the cooperators identified above.



Order #: 02-15-02 Silverado Fire Closure Area Exhibit A



Legend

- Road Closures
- Trail Closures
- Roads
- Trails
- County Boundary
- Closure Area
- Silverado Fire Perimeter

Land Ownership

- USDA Forest Service
- Non Forest Land
- National Forest
- Administrative Boundary

0 0.5 1 Miles

