ORDER No. 15-19
SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST
HUME LAKE RANGER DISTRICT
FIRE CLOSURE

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 Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest. This Order is effective from August 20, 2015 until the Rough Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Hume Lake Ranger District Closure Area, as described in Exhibit A and shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(e).

2. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Hume Lake Ranger District Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

3. Being on any National Forest System road within the Hume Lake Ranger District Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.54(e).

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 any official duty.

2. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR 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.

Done at Porterville, California this 19th day of August, 2015.

KEVIN B. ELLIOTT
Forest Supervisor
Sequoia National Forest
The Hume Lake Ranger District Closure Area begins at the intersection of the Sequoia National Forest in Section 21, Township 12 South, Range 30 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues south approximately 49.1 miles along the forest boundary to its intersection with the Monarch Wilderness boundary in Section 34, Township 14 South, Range 29 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues north approximately 4.1 miles along the Monarch Wilderness boundary to its intersection with Shell Mountain Road (Forest Road No. 14S03), then continues west approximately 1.3 miles to its intersection with Big Meadow Creek Road (Forest Road No. 14S14), then continues west approximately 2.2 miles to its intersection with Horse Corral Road (Forest Road No. 14S11), then continues west approximately 1.9 miles to its intersection with the Generals Highway, then continues west approximately 4.1 miles to its intersection with the forest boundary in Section 9, Township 14 South, Range 28 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues northwest approximately 10.3 miles along the forest boundary to its intersection with State Highway 180 in Section 11, Township 14 South, Range 27 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues north to its intersection with the northwest corner of Section 31, then continues west to its intersection with the southwest corner of Section 25, Township 13 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues north approximately 1 mile to its intersection with Delilah Road (Forest Road No. 12S19), then continues north approximately 6.4 miles to its intersection with Camp 4-1/2 Trail (Forest Trail No. 26E02), then continues northeast approximately 2.3 miles to its intersection with the forest boundary in the northwest quarter of Section 27, Township 27 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues along the forest boundary back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
The Rough Fire, burning on the Sierra National Forest, is advancing in our direction. It has crossed the North Fork of the Kings River and Highway 180 and entered the Hume Lake Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument. The fire is spreading rapidly, threatening Hume Lake Christian Camp and over 450 private summer homes which necessitated mandatory evacuations. Should the fire cross the South Fork of the Kings River it has the potential to threaten public safety along Highway 180, at Hume Lake, and the Converse Giant Sequoia Grove, home of the Boole Tree, and other popular recreation areas. Firefighting equipment and personnel are being staged along the roads within this area as well. In order to provide for public safety, I am closing the majority of the Hume Lake Ranger District as follows:

The Hume Lake Ranger District Closure Area begins at the intersection of the Sequoia National Forest in Section 21, Township 12 South, Range 30 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues south approximately 49.1 miles along the forest boundary to its intersection with the Monarch Wilderness boundary in Section 34, Township 14 South, Range 29 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues north approximately 4.1 miles along the Monarch Wilderness boundary to its intersection with Shell Mountain Road (Forest Road No. 14S03), then continues west approximately 1.3 miles to its intersection with Big Meadow Creek Road (Forest Road No. 14S14), then continues west approximately 2.2 miles to its intersection with Horse Corral Road (Forest Road No. 14S11), then continues west approximately 1.9 miles to its intersection with the Generals Highway, then continues west approximately 4.1 miles to its intersection with the forest boundary in Section 9, Township 14 South, Range 28 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues approximately 10.3 miles northwest along the forest boundary to its intersection with State Highway 180 in Section 11, Township 14 South, Range 27 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues approximately 14.8 west to its intersection with the southwest corner of Section 31, Township 13 South, Range 27 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues north to its intersection with the northwest corner of Section 31, then continues west to its intersection with the southwest corner of Section 25, Township 13 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues north approximately 1 mile to its intersection with Delilah Road (Forest Road No. 12S19), then continues north approximately 6.4 miles to its intersection with Camp 4-1/2 Trail (Forest Trail No. 26E02), then continues northeast approximately 2.3 miles to its intersection with the forest boundary in the northwest quarter of Section 27, Township 27 South, Range 26 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, then continues along the forest boundary back to the starting point.

This closure will include the roads and trails within the closure area.

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. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.