

---

**File Code:** 5330  
**Route To:** File

**Date:** July 12, 2022

**Subject:** Forest Order No. 05-15-00-22-14 – Sierra National Forest,  
Washburn Fire Closure Order

**From:** Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing Forest No. Order 05-15-00-22-14, hereby closing lands, roads, and trails within the Sierra National Forest, as a result of the Washburn Fire, for the purpose of public safety. This Forest Order will be effective from July 13, 2022, through August 1, 2022.

On the evening of July 7, 2022, a wildfire ignited in Yosemite National Park on the Washburn Trail. By July 10, 2022, the Washburn Fire had grown from its original size of 10 acres to more than 3,221 acres and is currently at 22% containment. The Washburn Fire is now rapidly approaching the Sierra National Forest. The Fire is predicted to impact wilderness and main forest roads and areas of recreation within the coming days. This will call for significant firefighting and Forest resources to help fight the advancing progress of the Washburn Fire. For these reasons these areas and roads will need to be closed for the safety of public visitors and fire personnel.

This Forest Order includes an exemption for persons with a Forest Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order (Form FS-7700-48). Authorization under this exemption will only be provided if I or my delegate determine that the risk to personal health and safety is reasonable considering the circumstances of the request. We may also require appropriate personal protective equipment and other necessary safety measures.

Scoping regarding this temporary closure involved discussions with multiple local, state, and federal agency cooperators. 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 C.F.R. § 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.

