



File Code: 2520

Date: July 31, 2017

Subject: Forest Order 09-17-04 (Steele Fire Closure Order)

To: File

From: Danelle D. Harrison,
Acting Forest Supervisor

It is my decision to implement Forest Order 09-17-04 (Steele Fire Closure Order) to protect public health and safety. The Steele fire is one of several fires that comprise the Modoc July Fire Complex. The Modoc July Complex, which started following a lightning storm on July 23-25, 2015, has exhibited extreme fire behavior and has grown rapidly to over 40,000 acres. The Steele Fire Closure Order will facilitate unimpeded ingress and egress for fire and other emergency responders, as well as owners, lessees and residents of land in the area—while limiting public exposure to fire danger and impaired visibility due to smoke.

Pursuant to 16 USC § 551 and 36 CFR § 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited on the Modoc National Forest. **This Order is effective from August 1, 2017 until the end of the 2017 Fire Season.**

1. **Going into or being within the Steele Fire Closure Area as described on exhibit A and shown on the attached map.** 36 CFR § 261.53(e)
2. Being on any Forest Road within the Steele Fire Closure Area as described on exhibit A and shown on the attached map. 36 CFR § 261.54(e).
3. Being on any Forest trail within the Steele Fire Closure Area as described on exhibit A and 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. 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 specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
3. Owners or lessees of land in the Steele Fire Closure Area.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A to provide protection for the environment.

Consultation was done externally with the CAL FIRE Lassen Modoc Unit, and local law enforcement cooperators. USFS employees with areas of expertise in fire management prevention, law enforcement, and public affairs were all contacted and involved in the development of the proposed closure order wording and exhibit. No formal, external public involvement occurred with this order.

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.