

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

**Date:** July 14, 2022

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

**From:** Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor 

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing Forest Order 05-15-00-22-15, hereby closing lands, roads and trails within the Sierra National Forest as a result of the Washburn Fire. This Forest Order will be effective from July 15, 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 14, 2022, the Washburn Fire had grown from its original size of 10 acres to more than 4,416 acres and is currently at 23% containment. The Washburn Fire is now on the Sierra National Forest. The Fire is moving east along the South Fork of Merced River in a remote river canyon making it difficult to access. The Fire is impacting wilderness and main forest roads and areas of recreation. This will call for significant firefighting and forest resources to help fight the advancing progress of the Washburn Fire. For these reasons, the impacted 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.

