



WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST



Forest Order #06-16-01-24-05

TOWN GULCH FIRE EMERGENCY AREA CLOSURE

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 551 and 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited in the area described in this Order within the Whitman Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. This Order is effective from August 7, 2024, through October 1, 2024, unless rescinded sooner.

PROHIBITIONS:

1. Entering into or being upon National Forest System Lands closed for the protection of public health and safety. 36 CFR § 261.53(e)
2. Being on the road. 36 CFR § 261.54(e)
3. Being on a trail 36 CFR § 261.55(a)
4. Entering or using a developed recreation site or portion thereof. 36 CFR § 261.58(b)

CLOSURE AREA:

The closure applies to the NFS areas, roads, campgrounds, and trails and trailheads described below and as depicted on the Map (Exhibit A).

Beginning at Forest Service Road (FSR) 7000 (East Eagle Road) at the Forest Boundary, proceeding north to FSR 7015 (Empire Gulch Road), then east on FSR 7015 to FSR 7700, then east on FSR 7700 to FSR 7710, then east on FSR 7710 to the forest boundary, then south on the forest boundary until the forest boundary turns west, then west on the Forest Boundary to junction of FSR 7000 at the point of beginning. Forest Service Road 7700 from Hwy 86 to 7700\7710 junction is closed.

(Use of Forest Service Roads 7000, 7015, 7700 north of 7700\7710 junction is permitted.)

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R., § 261.53 (e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with Forest Service Permit No. FS-7700-48 (Permit for Use of Roads, Trails, or Areas Restricted by Regulation or Order) specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State or local law enforcement officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 C.F.R. Part 261, Subpart A.

Violation of these prohibitions are 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 6 months, or both. (16 U.S.C. § 551 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 3551, 3559, 3571, and 3581.)



WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST



Forest Order #06-16-01-24-05

Executed in Baker City, Oregon, this 7th day of August, 2024

Shaun McKinney
Forest Supervisor
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest



WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST



Forest Order #06-16-01-24-05

Statement of Need:

This closure is necessary to provide forest visitors protection from the hazardous conditions associated with the current fire on the Whitman Ranger District.

Enforcement Procedures:

Enforcement will be conducted by FPOs, LEOs, and Sas. Discretion will be used in the first couple of days after enacting the order and the preferred method of compliance will be a warning since the goal is to clear the area and protect the public.

Posting:

Posting shall be done by the forest staff or fire personnel assigned to the fire. Posting will be made at all major access points to the area.

CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACT

REASONS FOR CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDING THE ACTION:

Based on a review of the proposed order and consultation with District and Forest resource specialists, 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, and it may be implemented immediately.

CIVIL RIGHTS IMPACT ANALYSIS:

I have determined that this area closure will have no impacts on civil rights as it will apply to all individuals. No one group or person will be affected more than another group or person.

SUMMARY:

Based on my review, I have determined that this Forest Order is compliant with the Forest Order process and should be authorized.

Shaun McKinney
Forest Supervisor
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest



WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST



Forest Order #06-16-01-24-05

Map: Town Gulch Area Closure

