

ORDER NO. 05-07-51-16-22

**SOBERANES FIRE CLOSURE
LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST
MONTEREY RANGER DISTRICT**

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to protect natural resources and provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited in the Monterey Ranger District within the Los Padres National Forest. This Order is effective from December 5, 2016, through December 4, 2017.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System lands within the Soberanes Fire Closure Area, as described in Exhibit A and shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.52(e).
2. Being on any National Forest System road within the Soberanes Fire Closure Area, as shown on Exhibit B. 36 CFR 261.54(e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the Soberanes Fire Closure Area, as shown on Exhibit B. 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 Law Enforcement Officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
2. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
3. Owners or lessees of private land within the Soberanes Fire Closure Area, to the extent necessary to gain access to their land.
4. Persons who reside within the Soberanes Fire Closure Area, to the extent necessary to gain access to their residences.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions found in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for and 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 Goleta, California this 5th day of December 2016.



ROBERT BAIRD
Forest Supervisor
Los Padres National Forest



File Code: 1010

Date: December 5, 2016

Subject: Forest Order 05-07-51-16- 22, Soberanes Fire Area, Road and Trail Closure

To: District Ranger, Monterey Ranger District

From: Robert A. Baird, Forest Supervisor *RAB*

I am issuing Forest Order 05-07-51-16-22 for public safety and resource protection to close the area that burned as a result of the Soberanes Fire within the Monterey Ranger District of the Los Padres National Forest. We expect the closure area to need about one year to recover from the devastating effects of the Soberanes Fire. Large portions of the burn area are without vegetation and are subject to rock and debris fall, with less severely burned areas containing significant numbers of hazard trees all of which contribute to safety issues for the public. Closure of the fire burn area and National Forest System roads and trails providing access to it is necessary to allow the area to revegetate and to recover from damage caused by fire suppression activities and also to protect the users of the roads and trails from hazard trees and debris fall.

The Forest has had discussions regarding the closure with local Fire Departments and cooperators. No opposition or issues were identified.

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.

