



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, August 13, 2008
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LAS 08-35

Cub Fire Closure Changes

Susanville, CA....Lassen National Forest has reevaluated the closure areas on the Almanor Ranger District. While some areas need to remain closed, many areas are now open for public use and enjoyment.

Some areas within the Cub Fire Complex will remain closed until December 31, 2008. This is due to the steep country and loose material continuing to roll such as snags and boulders. Al Vazquez, Almanor District Ranger stated "though the Cub Complex fires are contained – fires will persist within the perimeter until the winter storms put them out."

Residents and forest visitors are reminded that hazards will continue to exist in the fire areas. Trees weakened by the fire may fall without warning at any time. Stump holes burning out and hidden by ash also pose a potential hazard. Boulders loosen daily and roll out.

Forest Road 27N06 will be opened to traffic and the area south of this road will be open for public use. Forest Road 28N12 (Carter Meadows Road) up to the Carter Creek Trailhead (accessing the Pacific Crest Trail) will be open to public, however the area west of this road will remain closed to the public due to fire hazards.

The Pacific Crest Trail is now opened through the Forest. Forest officials have opened the portion south from State Highway 36 to the Lassen Plumas Forest boundary for through hiking, however areas west of the Trail will remain closed to the public. Hikers are advised to stay on the trail through the burned areas as fires continue burning inside the fire perimeters.

The PCT is closed south of the Lassen Plumas NF boundary for several miles as fire remains very active and is creating many hazards. This closure is under the Canyon Complex Fire Trail Closure. A detour through this closure area starts on the Lassen NF where the PCT crosses Soda Creek Road (26N74), near Poison Springs, hikers can follow the road east to the Indian Springs Trail which ends at Belden Rest Stop on Highway 70. Hikers are advised the Indian Springs Trail is not regularly maintained. The PCT is open at State Highway 70 south through the remainder of the Plumas NF. Please check the Plumas website for current closure orders and maps

www.fs.fed.us/r5/plumas

In the High Lakes Area, the Long Branch Fire (originally part of the BTU Lightning Complex) a portion will remain closed south of Saddle Lake within the fire perimeter to the Lassen Forest Boundary. See Exhibit B in Order No. 06-08-07 on the website. Forest officials estimates for control is late fall.

Now open for public use north of the closure area, are many of the lakes within this popular designated Off-Highway Vehicle Area. Chips and Mud Lake are open to hikers and mountain bikes. Morris, Long, Campbell, Spring Valley, and Bear Lakes are accessible by motorized vehicles. Drivers are reminded to stay on roads and trails as cross country travel is prohibited.

Closed to public use are campgrounds and pull outs along Highway 32 from Elam Picnic Area to the junction of Forest Road 27N06 (Calf Creek Road).

This includes the Elam, Potato Patch, and Alder Campgrounds and numerous pull outs or fishing access points along Highway 32. This area is a hazardous place to put fire fighters during “mop-up” operations. These areas will remain closed for the remainder of the season for public safety. “Winter storms will not only help put the fire out, but will be effective at reducing the number hazardous trees and snags along the Creek” stated Al Vazquez Almanor District Ranger.

Forest managers realize the significant impact created by the closure of portions of the High Lakes OHV Area as well as campgrounds in the Deer Creek Canyon on Highway 32.

Public and firefighter safety remain the top priority.

Law enforcement personnel will be patrolling these areas and enforcing the closure orders for public safety. Due to the drought conditions, wildfires are still active and will remain so until significant rainfall occurs. Forest visitors are reminded fire restrictions remain in place and campfires are not allowed outside designated campgrounds.

Before traveling check the website for maps provided in the Forest Orders before entering any national forest. Many forests throughout California have on-going fires. Increased trip planning is necessary as fires will continue until fall rains.

Contact Almanor Ranger District Office at 530-258-2141 or the Lassen National Forest Office 530-257-2151 for additional closure information or see www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen.