



Order No. STF 2018-01
USDA Forest Service
Stanislaus National Forest
Calaveras Ranger District
CANDY ROCK QUARRY SHOOTING RESTRICTION AREA

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a), and to provide for public health, the following acts are prohibited within the Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. This Order is effective from April 21, 2018 through April 20, 2019.

1. Discharging a firearm within the Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area, except from 10 a.m. through 6 p.m. on Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. through 3 p.m. on Saturday. The Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area includes the Candy Rock Quarry and all National Forest System lands that are 150 yards from the outer boundary of the Quarry, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.58(m).
2. Using an explosive within the Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.52(b).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Persons hunting a legal game bird or mammal are not exempt from the prohibitions listed above. However, a person hunting during the open hunting season for that bird or mammal as specified by the laws of the State of California, and having a valid hunting license in his or her possession, may discharge a firearm at the legal game bird or mammal.

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

A violation of these prohibitions is 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 six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed on April 20, 2018 at Sonora California

Jason J. Kuiken
Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest

Forest
Service

Stanislaus National Forest

19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-3671
FAX: (209) 533-1890
TTY/fTDD: (209) 533-0765



<http://www.fs.usda.gov/stanislaus>

File Code:

1010/195

Date: April 20, 2018

0-1 Route To: Project File

Subject: Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area

From:  Jason J. Kuiken, Forest Supervisor

Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area is located on the Stanislaus National Forest, Calaveras Ranger District in Calaveras County, CA. The quarry is in a wildland-urban interface area, approximately one-third mile from the nearest private residential properties. The quarry site is one of the most actively used locations on the District for recreational target shooting.

Over the past six and a half years, the District received numerous written and verbal complaints about shooting activity at and near the quarry. The complaints concerned persistent shooting noise during daylight hours and into darkness, and public safety on both public lands and nearby private lands. In addition, the District received comments from other individuals expressing a desire to continue to enjoy the use of the site for responsible target shooting. Although 36 CFR 261.10(d) prohibits discharging a firearm within 150 yards of occupied areas, across or on a road or body of water, or in a cave, this prohibition has not been sufficient to remedy the danger posed by shooting in the Quarry. The nearest residences to the Candy Rock Quarry are over 440 yards away from the Quarry, and the Quarry contains no roads or caves.

Calaveras District staff held a series of public scoping sessions to seek a solution. They attended multiple meetings with the local Calaveras County Supervisor and Calaveras County Sheriff's office as well as with concerned citizens representing divergent viewpoints. The Calaveras Ranger District commissioned an assessment by the National Rifle Association, and also contracted with the Center for Collaborative Policy to serve as an impartial mediator.

All of these efforts provided the forest with a collection of suggestions designed to improve public safety while also positively addressing the varying viewpoints held by groups interested in the issue. One common suggestion was to institute restrictions on hours of the day that target shooting activity could take place in the area.

In response, the Forest Service issued a temporary Forest Order STF 2011-4 restricting the

use of firearms in the Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area to Monday through Friday 10:00am to 6:00pm, and Saturday 10:00am to 3:00pm. Discharging firearms within the quarry was prohibited outside of those hours, including all day Sunday, with the exception of activities related to the pursuit of game animals during hunting season. The purpose of limiting the duration of shooting was for the health and safety of residents and other public land users in the area by reducing the noise disturbance. Forest Order STF 2011-4 terminated on April 28, 2013 and was succeeded by Forest Order STF 2015-04.

Forest Orders restricting shooting times and days at Candy Rock Quarry have been largely successful rendering positive results over the years. Complaints lessened greatly and quarry users, for the most part, accepted and respected the parameters for shooting. A new directive from the Washington Office requiring Washington Office notice prior to the implementation of long term shooting restrictions on National Forest System lands was issued in April 2015. Forest Order STF2015-04 expired in April 2017 before notice was completed. Initially, although there was no Forest Order in place to restrict shooting sports, there was no discernible change in conditions because winter storms having occurred in early 2017 caused road damage that forced the closure of the road accessing the Candy Rock Quarry.

However, over the course of the 2017 summer season without the Forest Order to enforce shooting restrictions, complaints about target shooting noise began anew and increased over the season. Shooting in the quarry also increased. On December 12, 2017 the Washington Office approved extension of the Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area order.

The Environmental Impact Study done on the Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Site is being re-evaluated to see if any of the previous studies need to be updated. The effects of recreational target shooting on water, soil, wildlife, recreation, and public health are among the areas that were studied. A long-term management strategy for this site will be made based on the findings of the Environmental Impact Study and its revisions or updates. Those revisions and updates, if needed, are expected to be completed in the fall of 2018.

My decision is to issue a new temporary Forest Order prohibiting the use of explosives and also prohibiting recreational shooting in the Candy Rock Quarry Shooting Restriction Area outside of the hours stated therein. The signs alerting the public to these prohibitions and restrictions will remain in place.

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. Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 215.12(f), this decision is not subject to administrative appeal. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

For further information regarding this decision, contact: Ray Cablayan, District Ranger; Calaveras Ranger District; PO Box 500; Hathaway Pines, CA 95233; (209) 795-1381.

cc: Heidi Rieck, Ray Cablayan

