



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Mother Lode Field Office
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EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER

Bureau of Land Management California

EMERGENCY CLOSURE OF Merced River Recreation Sites

Action: Pursuant to Section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)), 43 CFR 8360.0-7 to 43 CFR 9268.3 and 43 CFR 8364.1, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hereby provides notice that effective immediately, the public lands described below are closed to all forms of public access. This closure is for public and employee safety in relation to the presence of toxic algae cyanobacteria (*Microcoleus*) in the Merced River.

Affected Area: Recreation sites along the Merced River between Briceburg and Bagby, in Mariposa County. This includes:

- Merced River Campground Access Road
- McCabe Flat Campground
- Willow Placer Campground
- Railroad Flat Campground
- North Fork Primitive Camp
- Cable Rock Day Use Site
- Briceburg Day Use/Put-in

These sites are accessed at the Briceburg Visitor Center at Highway 140, 12 miles east of the town of Mariposa, in Mariposa County.

Prohibitions: The public must not enter the closure area. All uses within the closure area are prohibited. Exceptions to these prohibitions are noted below under Supplemental Information.

Dates: This closure is effective immediately and will remain in effect until September 17.

Supplemental Information: The following persons are exempt from the provisions of this Order:

1. Any Federal, State, or Local Officer, or member of an organized medical rescue or firefighting force engaged in fire, emergency, or law enforcement activities, or public utility employees engaged in emergency response.
2. BLM employees, contractors, or agents engaged in official duties.
3. Individuals operating within the scope of their official and legitimate governmental duties.
4. Parties who carry written approval signed by the BLM Authorized Officer allowing access to the described public lands.
5. Persons possessing a Right-of-Way or easement to use the Merced River Campground Access Road using the road to access private inholdings.

Penalties: Any person who violates this may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined in accordance with 18 U.S.C. 35871, imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Vehicles found in violation of this order may be removed.

Effective: This Order is effective immediately upon signature.

Signed by:

ELIZABETH MEYER-SHIELDS

Digitally signed by ELIZABETH MEYER-SHIELDS
Date: 2021.09.03 11:06:05 -07'00'

Field Manager

Date