



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

TEMPORARY CLOSURE ORDER

Bureau of Land Management California

TEMPORARY GATE CLOSURE OF Scott's Creek Gate at South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area May 12, 2023

Action: Pursuant to 43 CFR 9268.3, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hereby provides notice that effective May 12, 2023, the Scott's Creek gate that accesses the eastside of South Cow Mountain OHV Management Area near Lakeport, CA will be temporarily closed. This closure is necessary to prevent unnecessary destruction of Clear Lake hitch and their habitat while water remains in Scott's Creek.

The gate closure will prevent undue degradation of fisheries habitat for a species under review to be listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Clear Lake hitch is endemic to the Clear Lake Basin. The hitch migrates annually in the spring from Clear Lake to tributaries including Scott's Creek. The state-threatened Clear Lake hitch has been in rapid decline since 2017. In recent years, due to drought, the fish have not been able to reach the spawning grounds on BLM lands. With the recent wet winter and spring, Scott's Creek has become a productive breeding ground and rearing habitat for the fish. Scientists determined that 2017 was the last successful reproductive year and hitch live an average of 6 years. 2023 is potentially the last year for that age class of fish to successfully reproduce. This endeavor to close the Scott's Creek entrance while juvenile hitch remain in the creek is a key step to ensuring the prolonged survival of the species.

Affected Area: This closure applies to Scott's Creek gate on the eastside of South Cow Mountain OHV Area near Lakeport, CA.

Prohibitions: The public vehicles must not access South Cow Mountain OHV Area through this gate during the temporary closure. Pedestrian traffic is still permitted in the area.

Dates: This closure is effective at 7:00 AM on Friday, May 12, 2023, and will remain in effect until June 1, 2023.

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 repairs.
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.

Penalties: Any person who knowingly and willfully violates this order shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 12 months, or both. Vehicles found in violation of this order may be removed.

Effective: This Order is effective at 7:00 AM on Friday, May 12, 2023.

NICHOLAS LAVROV

Digitally signed by NICHOLAS LAVROV
Date: 2023.05.15 08:00:05 -07'00'

Signed by: _____