



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Eastern Interior Field Office
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<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

TEMPORARY CLOSURE ORDER July 11, 2015 Nome Creek Valley in the White Mountains National Recreation Area

Location: Nome Creek valley in the White Mountains National Recreation Area, Alaska: Township 6 North, Range 3 East, Sections 1 and 2, 11-14, and 23-26; Township 6 North, Range 4 East, Sections 1-30; Township 6 North, Range 5 East, Sections 1-30; Township 6 North, Range 6 East, Sections 5-8, 17-20, 29-30; Fairbanks Meridian.

Order: Effective at 5:00 pm, July 11, 2015, the above BLM public lands will be temporarily closed to all public access for public safety and emergency wildland fire suppression operations.

Dates: This temporary closure on public access to the Nome Creek valley will remain in effect from July 11, 2015, until such time as public health and safety are no longer at risk due to wildland fire incidents on public lands in and adjacent to the closure area. The BLM will provide appropriate public notification when public access restrictions are lifted for the area.

Supplemental Information: The temporary closure order will be posted at the major entry points to the closure area at Mile 42 and Mile 57 Steese Highway. The closure will be enforced by wildland fire suppression and law enforcement personnel. Copies of the closure order and maps of the closed area will be available at the BLM Fairbanks District Office. The closure will also be publicized on the BLM website and distributed to local government agencies and media contacts.

Rationale: The purpose of this temporary public access restriction is to minimize risks to public health and safety from an active wildland fire incident occurring in the vicinity of US Creek. This incident was started by lightning on June 22. Current extreme fire conditions and Red Flag warnings have created the possibility of further fire spread, possibly cutting off the only road access to Nome Creek valley. During the temporary closure, the BLM may utilize facilities in the Nome Creek valley as base camps for wildland fire suppression operations.

Penalties: This temporary closure order has been implemented under the authority of Section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a)), and 43 CFR 9268.3(d). Any person who violates the above restriction order may be issued a citation, tried before a United States Magistrate, and fined no more than \$1,000, imprisoned for no more than 12 months, or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571 and 3581.



Lenore Heppler
Eastern Interior Field Manager

7/11/15
Date

Attachment: Map of Closure Area in Nome Creek Valley