

News Release

USDA Forest Service

Los Padres National Forest



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Los Padres National Forest
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Most of Los Padres National Forest in Monterey County Remains Closed to Public Entry

The Forest Service issued a reminder today that, with the exception of the Kirk Creek, Plaskett Creek and Arroyo Seco Campgrounds, and six designated “day use areas” along the Big Sur Coast, all Los Padres National Forest lands within Monterey County are closed to public entry until further notice. The emergency closure also applies to national forest land in San Luis Obispo County north of San Carpoforo Creek near the Monterey County/San Luis Obispo County line. Forest Supervisor Peggy Hernandez said the closure is due to ongoing hazards associated with the recent large wildfires and is likely to be in effect for at least several more weeks.

“I realize this closure is disappointing to forest visitors and is especially difficult for deer hunters who have been looking forward all year to hunting in this area, but this closure is essential for public and firefighter safety,” explained Hernandez. “The Indians Fire and Basin Complex Fire are contained meaning there is a secure line around them, but there are many areas within the fire perimeter that are still burning. Also, there are crews in and around the burned areas repairing fire control lines and roads damaged by firefighting activities,” she added.

Flames and smoke from some of these unburned islands within the fire’s interior may be very visible from communities near the fire, according to Monterey District Ranger John Bradford. “People can expect to see smoke from time to time, possibly even flames, until the winter rains arrive, but the perimeter control lines are secure,” he said.

Bradford said national forest day use areas on the Big Sur Coast that are open to the public are west of Highway 1 and include the following: Pfeiffer Beach, Mill Creek, Sand Dollar, Jade Cove Beach, Willow Creek and San Carpoforo Beach. Camping is prohibited in these facilities.

Visitors to Los Padres National Forest are reminded that wood and charcoal fires and recreational target shooting are currently prohibited in all areas of the forest. Smoking is prohibited except within an enclosed vehicle, building or designated Campfire Use Site.

For more information, contact the Forest Service office in King City at (831) 385-5434 or go online to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres>.

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