

File Code: 2720

Date: December 3, 2009

Dear Electronic Site Lessee:

As you know by now, the Forest has closed a portion of the forest as a result of the Station Fire (Forest Order No. 01-09-08). The closure is to protect natural resources and provide for public safety due to the anticipated effects of weather events on the deteriorated watersheds.

It has been identified that, because of deteriorated watersheds, that occupancy and activities within the closure area may be at risk during and after weather events. There is the increased potential for landslides, mudflows, rock fall, uncontrolled water and sediment movement, and higher volume and speed of stream flows, to result from the weather events. These effects resulting from the weather events can result in access being restricted or compromised, potential damage to buildings and other improvements, and pose a health and safety risk to any person within an affected area.

The electronic leases for Mt. Lukens, Mt. Disappointment, and Mt. Wilson are located with the closure area with primary access also located within the closure area.

Please be advised that the State and County control access on their roads, not the Forest Service. Access on the Angeles Crest Highway, and County Roads (Big Tujunga Canyon Road, Angeles Forest Highway, Upper Big Tujunga Road, and Mount Wilson Road), and when that access is restored, is determined by them. We control the access on Forest Service roads and there is no guaranty that we may be able to reopen the roads after a weather event in a timely manner. Therefore, there is the potential that you may not be able to access to or from your permitted area for a period of time.

Some of you may have staff at your facilities to provide maintenance and security for your improvements. You will need to provide me the documentation that you are able to provide for the needs of any staff that may be "stranded" for up to weeks at a time due to lack of access. Failure to provide such information may result in that custodial presence will not be allowed if and when your permit is suspended for health and safety reasons.

I am also including a copy of a Storm Access and Transit Policy that Mt. Wilson Observatory has in place for weather events. I request that you develop a similar policy for your permit area and staff. The policy will be used in our determination of the authorized use of your permit area during a weather event.

If the situation presents itself where we decide it is prudent to suspend your permit for health and safety reasons, we will attempt to provide you 48 hour notice so you can remove any unauthorized staff within 24 hours. However, the personal safety of you and your staff is your



responsibility but that does not give you the final say on whether you decide to stay or not within your permitted area. The Forest hopes that you will exercise the sound judgment to not put yourself in harm's way and make that decision prior to any threats materializing.

Please feel free to contact me if further clarification or information regarding the Forest Closure and what it means to your permit authorization is necessary. I can be reached at 818.899.1900, ext. 223, or mmcintyre@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. McIntyre", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL J. McINTYRE
District Ranger