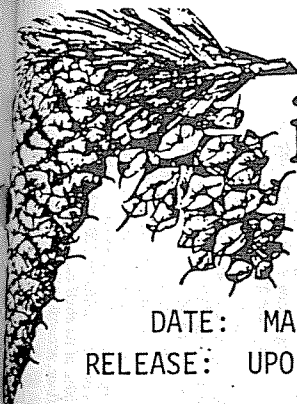
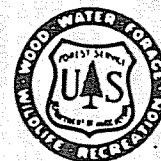


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# Inyo National Forest news

## EMERGENCY CLOSURE



DATE: MAY 26, 1980  
RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT

An emergency closure of wilderness and backcountry most severely affected by Sunday's earthquakes, was ordered today by Robert Rice, Supervisor of Inyo National Forest.

The closure order was prepared in cooperation with and at the request of Mono County Sheriff Martin Strelneck and the California Office of Emergency Services.

The area that is closed to all travel or use by the public extends from Rock Creek on the south to the Red Cones and the Madera-Fresno County lines on the north.

This 150 square miles of mainly wilderness sustained the bulk of the damage done by the earthquakes on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The quakes measured 6.0 and 6.1 on the Richter scale. Epicenters of the quakes were pinpointed at Hilton Creek. Widespread and severe damage has occurred on the backcountry trails, especially in the Convict Canyon area. In places, 100 feet of rock debris covers the paths.

In the interest of public safety and with the advice of geologists who expect continued strong earthquake activity, the closure will last through June 1st. It will be extended if necessary, Mammoth District Ranger Dick Adams stated.

The boundaries are set so that it is possible to drive up the Rock Creek road, but not to hike into any backcountry on the north side of that drainage. The eastern boundary of the closed area follows Forest Service land ownership and does not include the BLM land that parallels Highway 395. The western edge of the closed area follows the boundary of the northern portion of the John Muir Wilderness.

Convict Lake campground and the nearby lake will remain closed to fisherman and day users, as well as campers. A more detailed map of the closed area may be seen at the Forest Service offices at Mammoth, Lee Vining and Bishop.

Forest Service staff will attempt to notify anyone holding a wilderness permit for entry from the Rock Creek, McGee Creek, Hilton Creek, Convict Lake, Laurel Canyon, Duck Pass, Sherwin Lakes, and Fish Valley trailheads. Those with wilderness permits may change them for another area by contacting the office from which the permit was issued.