

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
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For Immediate Release

HALF OF MT. LEMMON'S NATIONAL FOREST SITES TO REOPEN AUG. 21 **Aspen Fire-affected Areas Will Remain Closed For Now**

(TUCSON, AZ) August 20, 2003—More than half of all Coronado National Forest recreation sites and trails on Mt. Lemmon will reopen on August 21, according to Santa Catalina Ranger District personnel.

“We’re happy to welcome people back to the open areas on Mt. Lemmon,” said Ron Senn, Santa Catalina District Ranger. Senn said that fire damaged areas will remain closed until repairs and removal of safety hazards is completed. The Catalina Mountains Pass program will continue to collect the \$5 daily/\$20 annual pass fees at open sites because the revenue is needed now more than ever for maintenance of those areas.

Starting Thursday, Forest visitors will be able to visit the following Coronado National Forest areas:

OPEN recreation sites include:

- Babad Duag Vista
- Molino Canyon Vista
- Molino Basin Rest Area & Picnic Sites
- Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site (aka Prison Camp)
- Thimble Peak Vista
- Seven Cataracts Vista
- Windy Point Vista (limited space)
- Organization Ridge group camps
- Palisade Visitor Center (open weekends)
- San Pedro Vista
- Bigelow Road
- Spencer Canyon Campground
- Bear Wallow
- Incinerator Ridge
- Aspen Vista
- Inspiration Rock Picnic Area
- Box Elder Picnic Area
- Alder Picnic Area
- Ski Valley

OPEN trails include:

- Bear Canyon
- Babat Duag
- Soldier
- Bellota
- Molino Basin
- Sycamore Reservoir
- Green Mountain
- Crystal Spring
- Butterfly
- Guthrie
- Brush Corral
- Davis Spring
- Incinerator
- Knagge
- Kellogg
- Shortcut
- Bigelow
- Maverick Spring
- Oracle Ridge

OPEN roads include:

Control Road (FR#38)
Catalina Highway

(more)

Some Mt. Lemmon areas will remain closed until hazards are removed and repairs can be made.

CLOSED recreation sites include:

General Hitchcock Campground
 Cypress Picnic Area
 Middle Bear Picnic Area
 Chihuahua Pines Picnic Area
 Geology Vista
 Lizard Rock
 Rose Canyon Campground
 Showers Point Group Site
 Box Camp Trailhead
 Sunset Trailhead
 Sykes Knob
 Whitetail Campground
 Loma Linda Picnic Area
 Marshall Gulch Picnic Area

CLOSED trails include:

Vista
 Rose Canyon Lake
 Palisade
 Box Camp
 Box Spring
 Red Ridge
 Canada Del Oro
 CDO Link
 Samaniego Ridge
 Sutherland (from Cargodera Springs up)
 Lemmon
 Lemmon Rock Lookout
 Wilderness of Rocks
 Marshall Gulch
 Aspen
 Sunset
 Meadow
 Mint Springs
 Aspen Draw

“We will have Forest Service employees on Mt. Lemmon this weekend to talk to visitors about the effects of the Aspen Fire and what sites are open,” said Senn. Senn said that an information station will be located along the Catalina Highway this weekend in at least one location to assist visitors. Palisade Visitor Center also will be open this weekend, Friday through Sunday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Volunteer Projects in Development Phase

In the aftermath of the Aspen Fire, Forest employees are monitoring the effects of emergency burned area restoration efforts while developing new projects in which civilian volunteers can participate.

“We are developing a list of volunteer projects to help the mountain and community heal,” said Sarah Davis, Santa Catalina Ranger District staff officer and volunteer coordinator. “This is a process that many people are looking forward to, and will span years rather than months.”

Davis said that while volunteers are anxious to get started now, the Ranger District needs to approve the list of projects first. Work groups will be coordinated through the Tucson Volunteer Center who will contact volunteers from those who signed up during the Aspen Fire.

For more information about recreation sites and programs on Mt. Lemmon, contact the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center at (520) 749-8700.