



**U.S. Forest Service
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News Release

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Black Mesa Ranger District roads and recreation areas open to the public

Springerville, AZ; March 28, 2018 – For Immediate Release – Forest road 300, the Rim Lakes Recreation Area, including Woods Canyon and Bear Canyon Lakes are now all open. The Woods Canyon Lake Store and Marina are scheduled to open on Friday, March 30, weather permitting.

Visitation to Woods Canyon Lake is limited to day-use only until the developed campgrounds open on April 27. Dispersed camping is available district-wide, but visitors are reminded to be mindful of mud and snow. Please be sure the ground is firm before pulling into a dispersed campsite.

Although Arizona has experienced a mild winter, it is not unusual for the Rim to receive significant snowfall into the months of April and May. Visitors should come prepared for changing weather conditions. Check the weather forecast before leaving home, and tell friends and family where you plan to visit and when you plan to return. There is no potable water, no trash service, and limited facilities available on the Rim. Carry extra clothing, blankets, food, water, and a cell phone. The Apache-Sitgreaves is a pack-it-in, pack-it-out forest. Please take home everything you bring into the forest.

Wildfires remain a vital concern. It is crucial that visitors have a plan and supplies necessary for extinguishing a campfire before starting one. The average campfire requires 5 – 10 gallons of water and a shovel to properly extinguish. With a little bit of planning and effort you can protect the forest from a wildfire. Do not light it if you are not prepared to fight it.

Questions or concerns contact the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, Black Mesa Ranger District at (928) 535-7300 or visit the ASNFs website at: www.fs.usda.gov/asnf