



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Shawnee
National
Forest

50 Highway 145 South
Harrisburg, IL 62946
800-699-6637
TTY 618-253-1070

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike Welker
(618) 833-8576

Annual Snake Road Closure

Harrisburg, IL, March 10, 2009 - On March 15, 2009, the Shawnee National Forest's Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District is temporarily closing LaRue Road #345 (locally known as the Snake Road) between mile post 3.0 and mile post 5.8. This section of the road will remain closed until May 15, 2009. This road is closed seasonally for the protection of snakes and amphibians, as they migrate from their winter hibernation habitats to their summer swamp habitats. Some of these species are on the State of Illinois Threatened and Endangered Species list as well as the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species list. The road closure helps to ensure their safe crossing during this very critical migrating season.

For additional information, call the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger Station in Jonesboro at (618) 833-8576.

- end -

