



NEWS RELEASE
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U.S. Forest Service, Angeles National Forest

For Immediate Release
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Forest Reopens Nearly All Remaining Closed Areas From Station Fire on Memorial Day Weekend

ARCADIA, Calif.—Forest Service officials will reopen on Saturday (May 24) nearly all remaining areas in the Angeles National Forest closed since the 2009 Station Fire. The reopening during Memorial Day weekend of about 46,000 acres north of Altadena will offer additional summer recreation opportunities to the public including hiking, camping and picnicking.

“We have worked very hard to get these areas reforested and restored since the Station Fire,” said Tom Contreras, forest supervisor. “Now people can enjoy them just like they do the rest of the forest.”

The areas have been closed for public safety and to allow for new growth and planting of vegetation. The Forest Service has announced previous reopenings of certain areas since the fire that burned about 161,000 acres.

Some forest areas will remain closed for reasons of public safety or further work needed on trails. They include Lower Gabrielino Trail (below Bear Canyon Trail), Barley Flats Trail, Colby Trail, Ken Burton Trail, Millard Water Fall User Trail, Santa Clara Divide Road (FS3N17), Messenger Flats Campground, Lightning Point Campground, and Big Buck Campground.

“Know Before You Go” to the Angeles National Forest. Find out about local conditions at your destination prior to leaving by visiting us online at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/angeles/>.

The Fire Danger Level is currently “Very High.” Open wood and charcoal fires are permitted only in developed campgrounds and picnic areas where a steel fire ring and grills are provided. Visitors are also reminded to ensure that all fires are extinguished and cold to the touch before leaving them.



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Petroleum jelly and propane stoves are permitted in non-developed area with a valid California Campfire Permit.

Visitors should exercise caution when visiting the Angeles and maintain a higher level of awareness with the increased fire risk. They should also check spark arrestors (required year-round) on off-road vehicles, chain saws and other equipment with internal-combustion engines to ensure they are in working order. Drivers in the forest should stay on designated roads and never park on dry brush or grass, to avoid risk of starting a fire.

About the U.S. Forest Service: The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.



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Route To:

Subject: Administrative closure of FS3N17 (portion) and axial roads

To: File

This letter documents my review of the proposed action to administratively close a portion of Forest Service Road 3N17 as well as axial roads that feed into FS3N17. This administrative closure will only apply to those stretches of roads that are on National Forest system lands. The portion of FS3N17 that will be closed is from Alder Saddle westward to FS3N17 intersection with the BPL road near North Fork Station. Axial roads also closed will be FS4N32 (BPL Road) between FS3N17 and FS4N33, FS4N33 (Moody Truck Trail) between FS3N17 and FS4N32, FS4N24 (Beartrap Truck Trail/SCE Service Road) between FS3N17 and Aliso Canyon Road, FS3N90 (Roundtop) between FS3N17 and Roundtop Peak, and FS3N32 (Mendenhall Ridge Road) between 3N17 and Indian Ben Saddle. My review input from staff from the LARRD and SCMRRD, and law enforcement. Based upon this review, I have decided that this action is excluded from documentation in an EA or EIS and falls within a category of actions for which a project or case file and Decision Memo are not required.

Specifically, Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.15, Chapter 31.12, Category 1 states:

1. Orders issued pursuant to 36 CFR Part 261 - Prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety.

This portion of FS3N17, and portions of the other road segments closed, has dead tree issues that should be mitigated before the public is allowed to access the area in any large scale manner. The Forest is preparing an environmental document to facilitate the removal of dead trees that may pose a threat to public safety. It is anticipated that these road segments will be reopened to the public once the tree project is completed.

/s/ Michael J. McIntyre
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District Ranger
District Ranger

cc: Sherry Rollman



