

# USDA Forest Service

## San Bernardino National Forest

### Mountaintop Ranger District



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San Bernardino National Forest  
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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Tree Removal Project begins in Splinters Cabin area**

San Bernardino - Starting Monday January 23rd, The San Bernardino National Forest will be removing dead trees along Forest Roads 2N26Y, 3N34 and 3N34C in the Hook Creek, Splinters Cabin area of Lake Arrowhead.

The project will include removing dead and dying trees that threaten to fall and block Forest roads. The trees in the area died as a result of the drought and many died as a result of the Old Fire in October 2003.

Logging contractors may be using a helicopter in addition to heavy equipment to fall and remove trees, posing a significant risk to the public. The roads and trails in the area will be closed to all use (no human entry) for the following reasons:

- Trees being fallen may not fall exactly where the timber worker expects it to, if the wood is rotten.
- Pieces of limbs and woody debris frequently fly long distances when a tree is fallen, potentially wounding a bystander that is not wearing appropriate, protective clothing.
- Branches or tops of fallen trees, precariously hanging in standing trees (called widow-makers) will fall eventually and are dangerous.
- Stacks of logs may look stable, but have the potential of rolling without warning.
- Forested ground disturbed by tree removal activities can have unexpected holes in the ground.

Public safety is the most important reason for staying away from logging operations, however, staying out of areas active operations also helps timber operators do their job

faster, as well. Being able to complete the job efficiently means the closure is over more quickly, and safety for workers and the public is always the paramount consideration.

Acting District Ranger Jon Regelbrugge stated “We are starting this project now to make sure we can have the area open before the busy recreation season in late spring.” Ranger Regelbrugge also noted “The increased funding the Forest Service received recently came at the right time, since the trees in this area are starting to fall and pose a hazard to the public.”

This area is a very popular destination for hikers, swimmers, OHV enthusiasts and fisherman from spring through fall. Forest Visitors are encouraged to call the Skyforest Ranger Station at (909)-382-2782 to discover the many other great recreation destinations and outings offered on the San Bernardino National Forest.

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