

**USDA Forest Service
San Bernardino National Forest
Mountaintop Ranger District**



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For Immediate Release

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Tree Removal on SR 18 at Arctic Circle

San Bernardino – Starting Monday October 31st, The San Bernardino National Forest will be removing dead trees along Highway 18 on the Arctic Circle, between Lakeview Point and the Big Bear Dam. We anticipate completing the project by Friday, November 11th.

The highway will remain open while the work is being done to lessen the impact to the Big Bear community. Motorists may experience short delays up to approximately 15 minutes, Monday through Thursday 8:30AM to 4:00PM and Fridays 8:30AM to 3:00PM, to allow the helicopter to cross the highway, without posing a hazard to the traveling public.

The project is part of ongoing projects by the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) to ensure evacuation routes and highways are safe for the motoring public and mountain residents.

“We will be using a helicopter to remove dead trees from above the highway that were cut last year” said District Ranger Allison Stewart. “In anticipation of the upcoming winter storms, the trees will need to be removed from the slopes before they pose a threat to public safety” said Ranger Stewart. “Additional trees that have died since last November will also be removed” she added.

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