

# USDA Forest Service San Bernardino National Forest



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San Bernardino National Forest  
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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Repairs to Storm Damaged Fire Roads Underway**

**SAN BERNARDINO, CA.**— Forest Service contractors have begun the enormous task of repairing fire access roads ravaged by the record storms of the 2004-2005 winter. These roads are critical in the fire suppression efforts throughout the San Bernardino National Forest.

“After the storms, we had serious concerns on how we were going to fight fire in the backcountry” said Director of Engineering Mary DeBelina, “Funding secured by Senator Feinstein is critical to helping protect the communities from the threat of fire.”

The Forest Service issued three contracts for road repairs within hours of receiving the supplemental funds. The contracts cover repairs to 143 roads in the San Bernardino National Forest. Two of the contractors began work on Thursday, with the third expected to begin work on Wednesday, June 15.

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The road projects stretch from Lytle Creek in the west to Idyllwild in the east. “We’ve asked the contractors to open the roads for fire access first, and then follow up with some of the permanent repairs at a later date,” said Forest Supervisor Gene Zimmerman. “We expect it will take 4-6 weeks to restore fire access.”

The San Bernardino National Forest received \$6.2 million dollars as part of \$24.3 million in a provision sponsored by Senator Diane Feinstein to repair Forest Service roads and facilities in Southern California that were damaged by the winter flooding.

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