

# USDA Forest Service San Bernardino National Forest Mountaintop Ranger District



Date: December 10, 2004

San Bernardino National Forest  
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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Continued Closure, Arctic Circle Project**

“Regardless of our best efforts to remove dead and dying trees quickly and efficiently along highway 18, timber operators need to continue working on the Arctic Circle project December 13 through 17,” noted project leader Jon Regelbrugge. “Our contractors continue to make excellent progress on this project, in spite of being delayed by snowstorms, several foggy days, and temporary mechanical problems with the helicopter which slowed our progress.”

**SR-18 between the Big Bear Dam and Snow Valley will be closed to all through traffic from 8:30 to 4:00 Monday thru Thursday (December 13-16) and 8:30 to 3:00 on Friday (December 17).** Citizens and Big Bear Valley visitors traveling to and from Big Bear will need to use SR-38 through Redlands or SR-18 through Lucerne Valley. Big Bear continues to provide a myriad of fun and festive opportunities for visitors and mountain residents during this temporary highway closure.

Thousands of dangerous dead and dying trees have been removed along the Arctic Circle over the last 3 weeks. The additional week of work will allow timber operators to remove remaining hazard trees. This project has significantly reduced the number of dead and dying trees which could have fallen onto the highway, substantially increasing safety to travelers.

We thank you for your continuing patience with the Arctic Circle Project. No further work will be done on the Arctic Circle project after December 17. Starting December 18, SR-18 along the Arctic Circle will again be open to all traffic, 24 hours each day.

For more information please visit

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/conditions/index.shtml>.