

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest



Date: November 20, 2004

San Bernardino National Forest
San Jacinto Ranger District
Idyllwild, CA 92549

The San Jacinto Ranger District of the San Bernardino National Forest will start the Lake Fulmor Emergency Hazard Tree Removal and Fuels Reduction Project.

Beginning on Monday, November 29, the Forest Service will close all access to the Lake Fulmor picnic area, which is located on Highway 243 between Banning and Pine Cove. It is anticipated that the hazard tree removal and fuels reduction project will last until Saturday, January 15, 2005.

All dead and dying will be removed within, 400 ft of the picnic area, as well as from a 6-acre parcel on the east side of the lake. Trees on the west side of the lake will be cut by hand, removed with a rubber-tire skidder to a landing, and hauled off site. Existing skid trails and one new skid trail will be used to access and remove the cut trees. All slash will be removed within the picnic area boundaries.

Trees on the east side of the lake will be cut by hand, moved to a landing on the west side using a skyline cable system, and then hauled off site. The skyline cable system will suspend logs over the lake as they are pulled to the west side.

Trees will be felled in a direction away from all features in the picnic area. Should any of the rockwork or picnic tables be accidentally damaged by tree felling, they will be repaired using like materials. Hazard trees will be removed around features by hand, including one of the bedrock mortar loci in the picnic area; the other locus is located outside the project boundaries.

Trucks will be hauling brush and logs from the area for the duration of this operation. Please drive Hwy 243 a little more carefully, and take an extra second to look both ways when approaching the Lake Fulmor area. The truck drivers have been instructed to drive with extreme safety and courtesy.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please call Ed Wieringa (cell 909-379-9328 or 909-382-2922) at any time.