

**USDA Forest Service
San Bernardino National Forest
Front Country Ranger District**



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San Bernardino National Forest
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For Immediate Release

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Helicopter Tree Removal in Angelus Oaks

Mentone-The Front Country Ranger District of the San Bernardino National Forest has signed a contract with Columbia Helicopters to begin tree removal as part of a fuel reduction project in Angelus Oaks. Helicopter logging will remove hundreds of dead and/or dying trees in the Angelus Oaks area. Along with the dead trees, small diameter green trees will be removed for thinning to improve forest health. The timber cutting portion of the project began on November 4, 2004 and will continue for approximately 5 to 6 weeks, and the helicopter removal will take 4 to 5 weeks. The helicopters will lift dead and or dying timber, cut by professional fallers, and transport the timber through the air to a staging point or landing.

“This is the beginning of what we hope to be very productive fuels treatment in that area,” said James Rudisill, District Forester. He also stated that helicopter logging is a very important and effective method for fuels removal on the types of slopes around Angelus Oaks.

While this type of logging is very interesting for the public to observe, it could be dangerous to go hiking around the operation site, so the public is cautioned and asked to view from safe, distant vantage points.

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