



# NEWS RELEASE

*U.S. Forest Service*

*Talladega National Forest – Shoal Creek District*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **U.S. Forest Service Closes Portion of Pinhoti Trail Due to Wildland Fire**

Heflin, AL (April 5, 2010) --- The U.S. Forest Service has temporarily closed the northeast portion of the Pinhoti Trail beginning at the Pinky Burns Trailhead because of a wildland fire that is currently located in the Dugger Mountain Wilderness Area, Talladega National Forest, Shoal Creek District. Until further notice, the Forest Service is asking motorists to limit use of Forest Service Road FS Road 500 and 500K off County Road 55. Forest visitors planning to hike the Pinhoti Trail located in the Dugger Mountain Wilderness should contact the Shoal Creek District office at 256-463-2272 before leaving, or check current forest conditions located on the Forest Service website at [www.fs.fed.us/r8/alabama](http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/alabama). Those living or traveling near the Dugger Mountain Wilderness Area will see smoke and an increase in personnel and equipment near roads.

According to Kim Bittle, district ranger for the Shoal Creek District, the safety of the public and wildland firefighters is our number one priority. “We are responding and our firefighters are working hard to contain the approximately 176-acre wildfire,” said Kim Bittle. “We understand that spring is a very popular time of year for outdoor enthusiasts; and we encourage the public to visit other recreation trails located throughout the Talladega National Forest during this time.”

The U.S. Forest Service Coordination Center in Montgomery, AL has ordered resources to support the fire suppression efforts. More than 40 personnel from the U.S. Forest Service, Alabama Forestry Commission, Pelham Fire Department, and crews from Tennessee and North Carolina were dispatched to the incident. The cause of the wildfire is currently under investigation. Contact the Shoal Creek District at (256) 462-2272 for additional information.