

NEWS RELEASE



USDA Forest Service

Rocky Mountain Region

Pike & San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron & Comanche National Grasslands

Salida Ranger District

325 West Rainbow Blvd.

Salida, CO 81201

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/psicc/sal>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. FOREST SERVICE WORKING TO OPEN TRAILS AND HARVEST DOWNED TREES FOLLOWING WINTER WINDSTORM

SALIDA, Colo., May 11, 2012– U.S. Forest Service crews from the San Isabel National Forest, Salida Ranger District are assessing the damage to roads and trails caused by a high velocity windstorms that hit the Chaffee County area over the winter. In addition to opening trails and roads, timber personnel are determining how downed trees can be harvested for commercial and personal fuelwood.

U.S. Forest Service crews are working daily to clear the most popular trails before the summer tourist season hits but the task is far from complete.

According to Ben Lara, Recreation staff officer, “We have literally thousands of trees that have blown down on local trails, roads and in campgrounds. We are operating in almost a “triage” mode of assessing which areas are the worst and need immediate attention.”

“As a result of the scope of the damage, we are working to meet local firewood cutters needs along with harvesting marketable trees for saw logs,” said Bill Schuckert, Salida District Ranger.

Public fuelwood permits will be available Friday, June 1, 2012. All fuelwood cutting will be in designated areas or designated roadside locations. Maps of these locations will be provided along with detailed permit information.

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