UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
SOUTHERN REGION

Order Number 01-2012

Emergency Temporary Closure of
All Caves and Mines on National Forest System Lands

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b), the following acts are prohibited within all National Forests that are administered by the Southern Region, excluding El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico. This closure is effective from May 21, 2012 until May 21, 2013, unless terminated earlier by the Regional Forester.

1. Entering any cave or mine, regardless of distance or depth, located on National Forest System Lands in the Southern Region.
36 C.F.R. § 261.53 (a), (b), and (d).

Note: The above prohibition does not apply to caves or mines that are posted as open with official Forest Service signs.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e), the following persons are exempted from this order:

1. Persons with written authorization by a Forest Service Officer specifically authorizing an otherwise prohibited act or omission.

2. Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force working in the performance of an official duty.

Executed in Atlanta, Georgia this 21 day of May, 2012.

Jerome Thomas (for)
LIZ AGPAOA
Regional Forester
Southern Region

Violation of these prohibitions set forth above is punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 for an individual and $10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. See 16 U.S.C. 551, 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571.