

News Release
USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



Effective Immediately

CONTACT: Heidi Schewel (520) 388-8484
For News Media Use Only

**CORONADO NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZES
CITY OF TOMBSTONE TO COMPLETE ADDITIONAL REPAIRS
TO DAMAGED WATER SYSTEM**

Temporary Closure in Effect

TUCSON, AZ (December 26, 2011) – On December 22, Coronado National Forest Supervisor Jim Upchurch signed a letter authorizing the City of Tombstone to complete additional repairs to their water system in the Huachuca Mountains on the Sierra Vista Ranger District. The work is authorized from the Forest Boundary to ¼ mile above, or west of, Gardner Spring, in the Miller Peak Wilderness.

Because the work is to be conducted in a Congressionally designated Wilderness, a “Minimum Requirement Decision Guide” (MRDG) was completed on December 9, 2011 to determine methods to achieve the desired work. The MRDG identifies, analyzes and selects management actions that are the minimum necessary for wilderness administration. A determination is first made as to whether action is necessary. If so, guidance is provided for determining the minimum level of activity to perform the action while preserving wilderness character. Following completion of the MRDG, Regional Forester, Corbin Newman delegated authority to the Forest Supervisor to allow mechanized and motorized use within the Wilderness.

Due to limited access to Gardner Spring, and the desire to minimize impacts to the Miller Creek channel, mechanized equipment will be working on narrow sections of the Miller Creek trail. To provide for the safety of visitors and the work crew, the Miller Creek trail will be temporarily closed until the work is complete, March 15 or sooner, from just west of the Hunter Canyon intersection to ¼ mile west of Gardner Spring.

The City of Tombstone has identified three additional springs that have been affected by fire and flooding, two of which are located in the Miller Peak Wilderness. The Coronado National Forest will work with the City of Tombstone to identify possible solutions to access the additional springs. For springs located in wilderness, the MRDG process will be followed to determine the minimum levels of activity needed to achieve the desired outcomes.

The USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider and employer.