

# NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service  
Coronado National Forest  
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**For Immediate Release**

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## **SABINO CANYON TRAILS REOPEN TODAY Temporary Restrictions on Non-paved Trail Access, Hours of Operation Lifted**

TUCSON, AZ (April 13, 2004)-- Temporary restrictions in place to help protect people from encounters with habituated mountain lions will be lifted today, according to Santa Catalina District Ranger Larry Raley.

“There are still mountain lions in the canyons but we believe that the relocation of a habituated lion has lessened the imminent threat,” said Raley. “As such, we are lifting the temporary restrictions but we are asking people to remain vigilant and follow some common sense guidelines.” Raley said that he appreciated visitors’ patience and adherence to restrictions during the temporary trial period and hoped that “lessons learned” would continue to have positive influences on wildlife in the recreation area.

Effective immediately in the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area:

- Non-paved trails are open with no restrictions on hours of travel
- Bicycles are allowed (as before) with the following exceptions:
  - No bikes on Wednesdays and Saturdays
  - No bikes between 9:00am and 5:00pm on other days.
- No dogs allowed at any time (except certified “handy” dogs)
- No feeding of wildlife
- No weapons or alcohol.

Raley said that the Forest Service will continue to strongly encourage visitors to:

- Be aware of their surroundings at all times
- Carry a hiking staff to ward off animal attacks
- Keep children within arm’s reach
- Use the buddy system
- Use bear-proof garbage containers or pack out uneaten food and trash
- Learn more about wildlife and their habits for increased enjoyment and self-protection.

The Ranger District plans to host one or more public workshops to gather input on the future management of the recreation area, although no dates have yet been set. People who wish to submit comments can send emails to: [comments-southwestern-coronado-santa-catalina@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southwestern-coronado-santa-catalina@fs.fed.us). (Please specify “Sabino” in the subject line.)