

# NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Molino Basin Campground Re-Opens This Weekend**

TUCSON, AZ (January 13, 2004)-- Although construction activities are still ongoing, many of the newly renovated facilities at the Molino Basin Recreation Site will re-open this weekend at 5:00 pm, Friday, January 16, 2004.

Beginning this Friday evening, 4 picnic sites and 14 campsites will be available for public use. Fees for overnight camping and picnicking within Molino Basin Campground are \$10 per vehicle; however, Catalina Mountain Fee Demo pass holders may use the 4 picnic sites outside the campground with no additional fee.

In May 2003, the Forest Service awarded a design-build contract for the renovation of Molino Basin to Stronghold Engineering, Inc. The Forest Service had planned for construction to be completed by late fall, but the schedule was delayed by last summer's Aspen Fire. Although the wildfire burned many trees in Molino Basin, the area to be opened this Friday was minimally affected.

The renovation project includes replacement of aging restrooms, picnic tables, and grills, installation of bear-proof food storage lockers and lantern hangers at each site, repair of stone walls throughout the area, and improved paths to each site. The final design will include about 36 campsites. All work is expected to be completed by mid-March 2004. Restrooms, information plazas, and many campsites will provide barrier-free access. Funding comes from the Forest Service's capital investment program.

Molino Basin Campground is located at milepost 5.7 along the Mt. Lemmon Highway at an elevation of 4400 ft. where semi-desert grassland meets oak woodland. Molino Basin is a popular place to picnic, camp and hike during the cooler months when higher elevations in the Santa Catalina Mountains are closed or covered with snow.

For additional information, contact Coronado National Forest recreation specialists Mindee Roth at 749-7710 or Diane Carroll-Cobb at 749-7705.