

# NEWS RELEASE

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

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## **HALF OF MT. LEMMON'S NATIONAL FOREST SITES TO REOPEN AUG. 21** **Aspen Fire-affected Areas Will Remain Closed For Now**

(TUCSON, AZ) August 20, 2003—More than half of all Coronado National Forest recreation sites and trails on Mt. Lemmon will reopen on August 21, according to Santa Catalina Ranger District personnel.

“We’re happy to welcome people back to the open areas on Mt. Lemmon,” said Ron Senn, Santa Catalina District Ranger. Senn said that fire damaged areas will remain closed until repairs and removal of safety hazards is completed. The Catalina Mountains Pass program will continue to collect the \$5 daily/\$20 annual pass fees at open sites because the revenue is needed now more than ever for maintenance of those areas.

Starting Thursday, Forest visitors will be able to visit the following Coronado National Forest areas:

### **OPEN recreation sites include:**

- Babad Duag Vista
- Molino Canyon Vista
- Molino Basin Rest Area & Picnic Sites
- Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site (aka Prison Camp)
- Thimble Peak Vista
- Seven Cataracts Vista
- Windy Point Vista (limited space)
- Organization Ridge group camps
- Palisades Visitor Center (open weekends)
- San Pedro Vista
- Bigelow Road
- Spencer Canyon Campground
- Bear Wallow
- Incinerator Ridge
- Aspen Vista
- Inspiration Rock Picnic Area
- Box Elder Picnic Area
- Alder Picnic Area
- Ski Valley

### **OPEN trails include:**

- Bear Canyon
- Babat Duag
- Solider
- Bellota
- Molino Basin
- Sycamore Reservoir
- Green Mountain
- Crystal Spring
- Butterfly
- Guthrie
- Brush Corral
- Davis Spring
- Incinerator
- Knagge
- Kellogg
- Shortcut
- Bigelow
- Maverick Spring
- Oracle Ridge

### **OPEN roads include:**

Control Road (FR#38)  
Catalina Highway

(more)

Some Mt. Lemmon areas will remain closed until hazards are removed and repairs can be made.

**CLOSED recreation sites include:**

General Hitchcock Campground  
Cypress Picnic Area  
Middle Bear Picnic Area  
Chihuahua Pines Picnic Area  
Geology Vista  
Lizard Rock  
Rose Canyon Campground  
Showers Point Group Site  
Box Camp Trailhead  
Sunset Trailhead  
Sykes Knob  
Whitetail Campground  
Loma Linda Picnic Area  
Marshall Gulch Picnic Area

**CLOSED trails include:**

Vista  
Rose Canyon Lake  
Palisade  
Box Camp  
Box Spring  
Red Ridge  
Canada Del Oro  
CDO Link  
Samaniego Ridge  
Sutherland (from Cargodera Springs up)  
Lemmon  
Lemmon Rock Lookout  
Wilderness of Rocks  
Marshall Gulch  
Aspen  
Sunset  
Meadow  
Mint Springs  
Aspen Draw

“We will have Forest Service employees on Mt. Lemmon this weekend to talk to visitors about the effects of the Aspen Fire and what sites are open,” said Senn. Senn said that an information station will be located along the Catalina Highway this weekend in at least one location to assist visitors. Palisades Visitor Center also will be open this weekend, Friday through Sunday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

**Volunteer Projects in Development Phase**

In the aftermath of the Aspen Fire, Forest employees are monitoring the effects of emergency burned area restoration efforts while developing new projects in which civilian volunteers can participate.

“We are developing a list of volunteer projects to help the mountain and community heal,” said Sarah Davis, Santa Catalina Ranger District staff officer and volunteer coordinator. “This is a process that many people are looking forward to, and will span years rather than months.”

Davis said that while volunteers are anxious to get started now, the Ranger District needs to approve the list of projects first. Work groups will be coordinated through the Tucson Volunteer Center who will contact volunteers from those who signed up during the Aspen Fire.

For more information about recreation sites and programs on Mt. Lemmon, contact the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center at (520) 749-8700.