

# NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service**  
**Coronado National Forest**  
**5700 N. Sabino Canyon Road**  
**Tucson, AZ 85750**  
[www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado)



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**For Immediate Release**

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## **TRAILS IN ASPEN FIRE BURNED AREA TO REOPEN**

### **High Elevation Fire-Damaged Recreation Areas on Mt. Lemmon Reopen on July 30**

(TUCSON, AZ) July 27, 2004—Coronado National Forest officials will reopen all designated recreation trails and developed sites within the Aspen Fire area on July 30.

“The Santa Catalina Ranger District is pleased to fully reopen these popular areas for recreational activities. Months of hard work has been completed to secure the trail corridors and developed recreation sites by removal of as many fire-weakened trees as possible” said Bob Magon, Acting Recreation Staff Officer. Even though the trail corridors and developed recreation sites are safer to enter and enjoy, it is strongly recommended that visitors not wander off into open country, but remain on the trails and roads, and within developed recreation sites to increase their own safety and to lessen erosion.

The Friends of Sabino Canyon have raised funds to pay trail crew expenses and other volunteers have assisted the trail crew in the field. Boy Scouts of America, Southern Arizona Mountain Bike Association and the Youth Corp of Southern Arizona have assisted the crew in bringing the trails up to minimum safety standards.

Forest officials caution visitors to stay alert now and in the future, because they are responsible for their own safety from the naturally occurring post-fire potential hazards which include: rolling rocks, fire-weakened trees that can topple or easily drop branches without warning, flash flooding and debris flows, and the treacherous ground surface left behind after a severe wildfire. Additionally, visitors are being cautioned of the hazards with warning signs at the trailheads.

Specific areas of concern, where it is particularly hazardous for a hiker to leave the trail, are in the general forest areas in the vicinity of the Mt. Lemmon Fire Station at the upper end of the Control Road, and Red Ridge between the designated trail and the ski lodge. Other similar situations are in the vicinity of Carter Canyon, Marshall Gulch, Fern Ridge, and the roadway from Summerhaven through the ski lodge area ending at the University of Arizona astronomy facility. Caution is strongly advised in these areas and treatment will be continuing.

For information on current recreational access and conditions, contact Sabino Canyon Visitor Center at (520) 749-8700.

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