

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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MOTHER'S DAY HOLIDAY ALWAYS POPULAR FOR PICNICKING, HIKES

TUCSON, AZ (May 6, 2004)— Coronado National Forest officials are expecting throngs of visitors at popular campgrounds and picnic areas on Mother's Day (Sunday, May 9). Below is information to assist visitors in making their holiday plans.

Forest Campground and Picnic Area Information.

Santa Rita Mountains. Open is the west side of Madera Canyon's new Mt. Wrightson Picnic Area (formerly known as Right Roundup at the end of Madera Canyon Road) with access to two new picnic sites, one restroom and the Old Baldy Trail with indirect access to the Super Trail (follow cross-country flagging from Old Baldy Trail). The remainder of Mt. Wrightson Picnic Area will remain closed until reconstruction work is complete. Forest Service managers will close Madera Canyon at the entrance when parking reaches capacity on Sunday, Mother's Day. Alternate sites include the Whipple Picnic Site near the base of Mt. Hopkins.

Santa Catalina Mountains. Open to access: Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site (aka Prison Camp), Rose Canyon Recreation Area, Showers Point Group Site, and Inspiration Rock Picnic Area. Other sites are open unless posted as closed. Closed sites include: Molino Basin Picnic Area (seasonal closure through October); also closed are General Hitchcock Campground, Middle Bear Canyon, Chihuahua Pine and Cypress Picnic Areas along the Mt. Lemmon Highway, Spencer Canyon, Sykes Knob, and Marshall Gulch—all related to damage by the 2003 Aspen Fire. Windy Point Vista is closed due to ongoing Mt. Lemmon highway reconstruction.

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Campfires and Smoking. No current restrictions on the Coronado National Forest. However, fire danger is high so visitors should choose campfire sites carefully, keep fires small and ensure all fires and smoking materials are dead out before leaving sites. *Campfire permits are required outside of developed sites on the Santa Catalina Ranger District (including Mt. Lemmon and Redington Pass).* The free permits are available at all Coronado National Forest offices and visitor centers during normal business hours, and available from fire prevention patrols.

Trails and Roads. All trails within the Oracle Hill Fire area *above 6000'* remain closed; trails below that elevation are open. All trails within the Aspen Fire area west of the highway remain closed. Swift Trail (on Mt. Graham) will reopen to public access on Friday, May 14.

Health and Safety. Food and garbage attract animals so properly dispose of trash. Keep a clean site and don't feed wildlife. Keep pets under control at all times. Obey posted regulations. Recognize and treat symptoms of heat-related illnesses and hypothermia. Drink water to avoid dehydration. Pack medicines and sunscreen. Have a first aid kit available. Know the location of the nearest emergency services.

Special Information. No off-road/off-trail vehicle travel is allowed. Fireworks are banned from national forests year-round. Fees for parking at developed picnic sites are \$5 per day, or \$20 annually. For more information, contact these Coronado National Forest Ranger District offices:

- Santa Catalina Ranger District (Mt. Lemmon, Sabino Canyon) - (520) 749-8700.
- Nogales Ranger District (Santa Rita Mts., Madera Canyon) - (520) 281-2296.
- Sierra Vista Ranger District (Huachuca Mts., Miller Peak Wilderness) - (520) 378-0311.
- Safford Ranger District (Mt. Graham) - (928) 428-4150.
- Douglas Ranger District (Chiricahua Mts., Dragoon Mts.) - (520) 364-3468.
- Coronado National Forest Headquarters - (520) 670-4552