

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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MT. GRAHAM'S SWIFT TRAIL REOPENS TO PUBLIC **Nuttall Fire Complex Area Closed to Public Access Until Hazards Are Removed, Repaired**

TUCSON, AZ (July 19, 2004)— Highway 366 (Swift Trail) in the Pinaleno Mountains reopened to public access this morning at 6:00 a.m. according to Acting Safford District Ranger Bill Lewis.

“Under the best conditions, Swift Trail can be a challenging road to travel,” said Lewis. “We’re asking people to be extra cautious now, and to watch for flash flooding, debris in the roadway, and extra traffic as crews continue to conduct mop up and emergency rehabilitation operations.”

Lewis said that the Arizona Department of Transportation has assumed reconstruction work on the rock fall containment project above Ladybug Saddle, and that travelers could expect minor construction delays.

Until further notice, the Nuttall Fire Complex area north of Swift Trail, including the Bible Camp, will be closed to public access due to hazardous conditions spawned by the wildfires. Hazards include “widow makers” (hanging limbs), burned tree roots that compromise trees’ stability, and the increased chance of flash flooding in areas downhill from intensely burned areas.

All Mt. Graham campgrounds now are open to the public. Campfires and smoking will be allowed outside of developed recreation sites beginning Tuesday morning (July 20); however, Lewis strongly advises visitors to be cautious and leave no campfires unattended.