



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Shawnee
National
Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AREA TRAILS IMPACTED BY REMNANTS OF HURRICANE IKE

Harrisburg, IL, October 3, 2008 – The Shawnee National Forest Mississippi Bluffs District Ranger is notifying visitors that some of the Forest's most popular trails sustained major damage as the remnants of Hurricane Ike roared through southern Illinois in September. Popular trails and recreation areas received heavy damage from the powerful winds gusting to over 50 miles per hour. Many Forest trails have large trees or limbs across them. Use caution when finding a path around these downed trees.

Forest Service employees are focusing their efforts on clearing access roads into recreation sites and trailheads. A thorough inspection of trails affected by the strong winds may not be completed for some time. The Forest has received early reports of many downed trees on the River to River Trail through Bald Knob and Clear Springs Wildernesses. Areas that have been cleared to date are Cedar Lake from the Pomona Boat Dock Road to Rowan Cemetery, the White Pine Trail and the River to River Trail from Bald Knob Cross to Hutchins Creek. We ask for your patience as work continues to clear debris from Forest roads and trails.

If you have information on the condition of Forest trails, please let us know. To report trail conditions in Jackson, Union and Alexander Counties, please call the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger Station at (618) 833-8576 or the Murphysboro Work Center at (618) 687-1731.

For information on trails on the Hidden Springs Ranger District call the trails hotline at (618) 658-1312.

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