

# News Release

## *Pisgah National Forest*

### Appalachian Ranger District

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May 16, 2005

#### For Immediate Release

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**Burnsville, N.C.** — The National Forests in North Carolina continue to make progress repairing damage on the Appalachian Ranger District left by Hurricanes Frances and Ivan last September. The following is a summary of road and facility status on the Appalachian Ranger District as of May 9, 2005:

#### Roads

**Lower South Toe River Road, # 472** (Yancey County from Mt. Mitchell Golf Course to Black Mountain Campground). Repair work is underway and the road to Black Mountain Campground will be open by May 27th.

**Upper South Toe River Road, #472** (Yancey County from Black Mountain Campground to Blue Ridge Parkway) is closed and will remain closed for the summer. This section of road sustained major damage.

**Neals Creek Road, #2074** (Yancey County between South Toe Road and the Blue Ridge Parkway) is closed. Repair work will begin after May 27 when the Lower South Toe Project is complete. Neals Creek Road is expected to be open in late June.

**Locust Creek Road, #239** (Yancey County) is open.

**Stony Fork Road, #63** (Buncombe County between the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Dillingham area). Repair work is underway and expected to be completed for opening by May 27..

**Coleman Boundary Road, #74** (Buncombe County at the end of Dillingham Road). The road is open to intersection of FS Road #5548, which is the last gated road on left beyond Laurel Gap. Coleman Boundary Road will be periodically closed during reconstruction in June.

**Other Roads** on the Appalachian Ranger District that are typically open at this time of year are now open.

#### Campgrounds and other Recreation Facilities

**Black Mountain Campground and Briar Bottom Group Campground** (Yancey County) are closed. They are scheduled to open May 27 when the road to the campground is open.

**Carolina Hemlocks Campground** (Yancey County) is open.

**Elk Park Picnic Area** in Avery County near Elk Park, NC is closed. No estimate on when it will reopen.

**South Toe Picnic Area** (Yancey County) on South Toe Road is closed. It will open in June.

**Other Campgrounds and Facilities** – All other campgrounds, picnic areas and recreation facilities on the Appalachian Ranger District in Yancey, Madison and Haywood Counties are open.

#### Trails

**Big Tom Gap Trail** (Yancey County) is closed. This is a short connector trail from the Mount Mitchell Crest trail to the Buncombe Horse Trail. No estimate at this time for reopening.

**Big Falls Trail** (Avery County) is closed. This trail goes from the Elk Park picnic area to the base of Big Falls on the Elk River. Repairs should be completed sometime in August.

**All other trails on the Appalachian Ranger District** are open at this time. Many of the trails still have rough areas that have washed badly, so caution is recommended. Some trailheads are not accessible due to road closures, primarily in the South Toe area of Yancey County and Big Ivy area of Buncombe County (see roads status). Crews will be working on additional repairs to trails throughout summer.

For updates on the National Forests in North Carolina storm damage recovery, please visit [www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc](http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc).

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