

News Release



USDA Forest Service, National Forests in NC
Highlands Ranger District
2010 Flat Mountain Road
Highlands, NC 28741

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For Immediate Release

Status of Bullpen Road Closure

(Highlands, NC, April 7, 2006) – Long awaited repairs to Bullpen Road are slated to begin the week of April 17. Bullpen Road connects Horse Cove Road with NC Highway 107 south of Cashiers, providing access for both local residents and visitors to the Chattooga River, Ellicott Rock Wilderness and area trails and recreation areas. The road has been effectively closed since it was severely damaged by the Fall 2004 hurricanes and subsequent storms.

There will be two back-to-back contracts. The first will repair the areas where the roadbed has slumped or fallen off. The second will repair and replace culverts and other damaged areas, and repave the existing 1.1 mile section northwest of the Iron Bridge.

Currently, vehicles are allowed from NC 107 to just northwest of the Iron Bridge and from Horse Cove Road to the Ellicott Rock Wilderness trailhead. The location of gates is subject to change during the life of the contracts. Once repairs are complete, the road will be re-opened to through traffic; likely sometime this summer.