



# NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

USDA FOREST SERVICE, 160A ZILICOA STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

## NEWS • RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Lake Powhatan to be Drained and Dredged**

PISGAH FOREST, N.C. — The U.S. Forest Service has begun draining Lake Powhatan in the Bent Creek Area to allow for the removal of over 10,000 cubic yards of accumulated silt. This draining and dredging project should be finished by this spring and should not delay the normal opening of Lake Powhatan campground and swimming area.

The rain caused by hurricanes of 2004 dumped significant amounts of sediment into the lake. This project will help to restore the lake's water quality to benefit both fisheries habitat and recreational swimming. The lake has been closed to swimming several times in recent years, and it is hoped this dredging project will keep closures from being needed in future years.

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The lake is now about two thirds drained and removal of the accumulated silt will begin as soon as the lakebed is sufficiently dried out. The dredging should be complete by the end of February and then Lake Powhatan should refill rapidly with normal spring rains. The lake will likely be restocked with fish by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission later in the spring.

During this project, several nearby trails will have to be closed. The locations of specific trail closures will be posted on trailhead bulletin boards in the Bent Creek area.