



NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

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

NEWS • RELEASE

Contact: Terry Seyden or
Tamara Schmidt
828-257-4200

March 19, 2005
For Immediate Release

Contracts Awarded for Storm Damage Repair on National Forests

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — The National Forests in North Carolina continue to make progress repairing the damage left by Hurricanes Frances and Ivan last September.

More than 30 inches of rain fell in parts of the forests within two weeks. The effects of the storm bands were devastating, wreaking havoc on the forests as roads and trails were washed away, culverts were blown, and large landslides and fallen trees blocked and damaged roads.

Forest Service specialists from across the country and local contractors are working to restore the roads and facilities to make them safe for public use.

Currently there are 18 active contracts being executed on the forests, with the Hendersonville Reservoir 2 mile road project in Henderson County on the Pisgah Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest approximately 80 percent complete.

The contracts are primarily focused on road repairs and restoration, but also include clearing and realigning trails and replacing roofs, fences, and decks damaged by the storms. The active contracts total nearly \$800,000.

The road projects currently under contract are to restore public access for forest visitors, as well as private landowners who use Forest Service roads to access their property.

Among the larger priority road projects currently underway is 8 miles of Forest Service Roads 63 and 63A, commonly known as Big Ivy and 6 miles of Forest Service Road 74, known as Stoney Fork. Both roads are located in Buncombe County on the Appalachian Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest. These roads are popular for hunting and recreation access. Tipton & Young Construction of Burnsville, NC, was awarded the contract. Completion is expected in the next three months.

Work started in early February on 1.6 miles of the Cliffside Lake road in Macon County on the Highlands Ranger District of the Nantahala National Forest. C. Lewis Penland, Inc., of Franklin, NC, was awarded the contract. Repairs on the road, which provides access to the lake, should be complete in April.

“The numerous contractors have been a great help as the forests work to restore the roads and facilities enjoyed by visitors,” said Forest Supervisor John Ramey. “As this effort continues, we look forward to continuing to develop these productive relationships that benefit not only the National Forests of North Carolina, but also the local communities.”

Since the storms left their mark on North Carolina’s National Forests, 32 contracts have been awarded and four have been completed. The total awarded contracts for road and facility repairs since the beginning of the recovery effort is approximately \$800,000. Many more opportunities are expected to be advertised within the next few weeks.

For more information on government contract opportunities, please contact the procurement office for the National Forests in North Carolina at 828-257-4297.

For updates on the National Forests in North Carolina storm damage recovery, please visit www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc.

###