



# **NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA**

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

## **NEWS • RELEASE**

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### **Sycamore Flats Closes for Stream-Bank Restoration**

The Sycamore Flats picnic and recreation area on the Pisgah Ranger District is scheduled to close from May 8 to May 31 to all public use during work to restore Davidson River stream banks.

The river, a cold water trout stream, is located near Brevard off U.S. 276. In a joint venture, the U.S. Forest Service and North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service will stabilize the river's stream banks.

Heavy recreation use and flooding during the tropical storms of 2004 has led to eroded stream banks and increased sedimentation,

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downgrading the river's water quality and habitat for fish.

“ This project will improve the habitats for coldwater trout and other aquatic species, as well as improve recreational experiences,” said Lorie Stroup, zone fisheries biologist for Pisgah National Forest.

“To restore the river, we will grade the banks and install stream structures—rock and log vanes—and remove hazardous trees. These structures will stabilize the banks,” Stroup said.

Popular for picnicking, walking, fishing and tubing, Sycamore Flats includes a picnic shelter and tables and grills, and bathrooms.

Additional improvements slated for June include a new 0.5-mile walking trail and two new bathrooms.

For information on potential closure dates for the additional recreation improvement work for Sycamore Flats, call the Pisgah Ranger District at 828-877-3350.