

Media Advisory
USDA Forest Service
Coronado National Forest
300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701
www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado



Effective Immediately

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EASTER HOLIDAY WEEKEND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

TUCSON, AZ (March 17, 2008) – Coronado National Forest officials are expecting large numbers of visitors to the Coronado National Forest’s most popular campgrounds and picnic areas on Easter Sunday, March 23. Following are tips to help make weekend outings fun and safe.

Forest Campground/Picnic Area Information

Santa Rita Mountains (Nogales Ranger District)

- Open: Madera Canyon Campground and Picnic Areas, Whipple Picnic Site, Pena Blanca Lake and Pena Blanca Picnic Area, and Calabassas Picnic Area.

Santa Catalina Mountains (Santa Catalina Ranger District)

- Open: Sabino Canyon Recreation Area picnic areas; Molino Basin Campground, Gordon Hirabayashi Recreation Site (aka Prison Camp), General Hitchcock Campground, and Cypress, Middle Bear, Chihuahua Pines, Alder, Box Elder, Loma Linda, and Inspiration Rock Picnic Areas.
- Closed for the winter: Rose Canyon Campground, Spencer Campground, Showers Point Group-Use Campground, Whitetail Group-Use Campground, Marshall Gulch Picnic Area, Bigelow/Bear Wallow Road, Oracle Control Road.

Chiricahua Mountains (Douglas Ranger District)

- Open: All campgrounds and picnic areas except Rustler Park.

Huachuca Mountains (Sierra Vista Ranger District)

- Open: All campgrounds and picnic areas.

Canelo Hills (Sierra Vista Ranger District)

- Open: All campgrounds and picnic areas.

Pinaleno Mountains (Safford Ranger District)

- Open: All campgrounds and picnic areas below 7,000 feet in elevation.
- Closed for the winter: Swift Trail (Highway 366) is closed above Shannon Campground.

International Boundary Travel Caution. Forest visitors traveling in remote areas of the Coronado National Forest in the vicinity of the International Boundary adjacent to the Republic of Mexico are advised to remain alert to their surroundings as illegal smuggling activity is known to occur in those areas. Do not attempt to intercede if you witness illegal activity. Contact the nearest law enforcement agency with descriptions of persons, vehicles, date/time and other pertinent information.

Campfires, Smoking and Fireworks. No current restrictions on the Coronado National Forest. However, fire danger is year-round high so visitors should choose campfire sites carefully, keep fires small and ensure all fires and smoking materials are dead out before leaving sites. *Campfire permits are required outside of developed sites on the Santa Catalina Ranger District (including Mt. Lemmon and Redington Pass).* The free permits are available at the Sabino Canyon and Palisades visitor centers during normal business hours, and are available from fire prevention patrols. Visitors who start wildfires may be held liable for suppression costs. Fireworks are banned year-round.

Dispersed Use/OHV. Picnicking and camping outside of developed recreation areas on the Forest is allowed unless otherwise posted. Visitors must provide their own water and pack out their garbage. Off-road/off-trail vehicle travel is prohibited.

For Ranger District And Recreation Area Information:

- Santa Catalina Ranger District (Mt. Lemmon, Sabino Canyon) - (520) 749-8700.
- Nogales Ranger District (Santa Rita Mts., Madera Canyon) - (520) 281-2296.
- Sierra Vista Ranger District (Huachuca Mts., Miller Peak Wilderness) - (520) 378-0311.
- Safford Ranger District (Mt. Graham) - (928) 428-4150.
- Douglas Ranger District (Chiricahua Mts., Dragoon Mts.) - (520) 364-3468.
- Coronado National Forest Headquarters - (520) 388-8300.