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For Immediate Release

## **Forest Service to Re-Open Flint Creek Multiple-Use Trail**

**(Double Springs, Al) July 17, 2008** ---- The U.S. Forest Service will open the Flint Creek Multiple-Use Trail on Friday, August 1, 2008, following maintenance, assessment and repair of severe resource damage. Located in the northeastern portion of the Bankhead National Forest, the trail provides a variety of recreational opportunities for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) riders, motorcycle riders, horseback riders, hikers, and mountain bikers. An increasing number of ATV riders illegally rode off the 16-miles of designated trail and caused impacts from user-created trails. The Flint Creek Multiple-Use Trail has been undergoing work since it was closed on April 11, 2008 to reconstruct portions of the trail and to rehab areas damaged from illegal riding.

“This is a continuing problem where riders have taken their vehicles off the designated trail, damaging Indian Creek and adjacent forest communities,” said Glen Gaines, District Ranger for the Bankhead National Forest. The Flint Creek Multiple-Use Trail system was closed in the spring of 2000 and again in 2004 to repair damages from illegal riding, with requests being made to users of the trail to comply with the rules and protect the surrounding natural resources. Impacts to natural resources such as wildlife species and their habitat, streams, vegetation, and soils as well as to protected cultural resources such as archaeological sites can all occur from illegal riding.

In order to keep the trail open, users must comply with Bankhead National Forest ATV riding requirements. For more information about the Flint Creek Multiple-Use Trail, or to report illegal ATV riding, please contact the Bankhead Ranger District at (205) 489-5111.