

<p>Nuttall Fire Complex</p>	<p>News Release</p>	<p>Winchester's New Mexico Incident Management Team</p>
<p>July 16, 2004 8:00 am</p>	<p>Safford Ranger District: (928) 428-4150</p>	
<p>For Immediate Release</p>	<p>Web updates: http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire</p>	

Highway 366 to Reopen on Monday

Fire Area Remains Closed

(Safford, AZ) July 16, 2004 – The Coronado National Forest and the New Mexico Incident Management Team on the Nuttall Fire Complex have announced that Highway 366 will be reopened to the public effective Monday, July 19, 2004 at 6:00 a.m. However, the reopening of the road does not mean that it is without potential hazards.

“Highway 366 is a challenging road in the best of conditions,” says Bill Lewis, Acting District Ranger for the Safford Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. “Now there will also be the risk of flash floods, rolling debris and falling trees.”

While the road has been opened, and the developed campgrounds along Highway 366 are opened, the public is cautioned that there is still some fire activity within the perimeter of the fire. Therefore, all trails and roads leading toward the fire area, and the fire area itself will remain closed due to the danger of falling snags and other hazards. Cabin owners in the Columbine area can access their cabins.

“We very much appreciate the cooperation and support we have received from the public and the cabin owners,” says Incident Commander Kurt Winchester. “Closing the road was necessary for the safety of all concerned, and we appreciate everyone’s understanding and patience.”

Smoke will continue to be visible within the fire area as unburned pockets of fuel ignite and dead and down fuels smolder. Motorists using the road are urged to use caution, drive slowly, and stay alert regarding the weather and their surroundings. The public should make every effort to avoid the area during thunderstorms. Additional information is available from the Safford Ranger District, (928) 428-4150.

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