



# NEWS RELEASE

## National Forests in North Carolina

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The USDA Forest Service is closing all recreation areas across Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest as of 3 PM this afternoon until Hurricane Ivan passes and storm damage can be assessed. This includes all campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, viewing areas, trailheads and trails. Bike trails, horse trails and Off-Highway Vehicle trail systems will be closed as well as hiking trails.

In addition, all Forest roads that are not through roads or that do not access private property are closed.

“Hurricane Frances caused significant damage to streams, roads, and recreation areas already, especially on Pisgah National Forest. Excessive rains and wind expected from Ivan will only add to what could be extremely dangerous situations on the Forests from high water, falling trees, mudslides, and damaged roads,” stated Forest Supervisor John F. Ramey. “People will be safer if they stay out of the woods right now.”

