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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Storm Damage Closes Campground

Bedford, IN – July 16, 2004 The South Slope Campground of the Indian-Celina Recreation Area on the Hoosier National Forest was severely damaged from the high winds that passed through southern Indiana earlier this week.

Forest Service crews immediately started removing downed trees and limbs, but the South Slope Campground, one of two campgrounds in the Indian-Celina Recreation Area, was damaged so severely it will be closed indefinitely.

“We had picnic tables and a toilet roof crushed plus water lines and culverts damaged,” said Eric Sandeno, the Forest Service cleanup project coordinator. “Hanging trees and limbs are scattered throughout the campground making it unsafe for any public use.”

What's Open: North Face Loop and access to Indian and Celina Lakes

What's Closed: South Slope Loop

An assessment of the damage to the rest of the Forest is currently underway. "We will have a plane in the air today reviewing the damage," said Acting Forest Supervisor Jim Denoncour. "Trail users may encounter pockets of fallen trees across our trail system, especially on the southern part of the Forest." Forest users are also cautioned to be aware that there may be more than the usual number of "widow-makers" along trails and in the campgrounds. These are broken limbs or trees that may be hung up and could fall at anytime.

People who had reservations for the South Slope Campground will be contacted by the Forest Service so alternative reservations can be made.

For further information call the Hoosier National Forest at 812.275.5987 or visit their website www.fs.fed.us/r9/hoosier.



Wind damage at South Slope Loop in Indian-Celina Lake Recreation Area



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