

# Forest Service implements seasonal voluntary trail closure

For Immediate Release

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**WINCHESTER, KY, March 1, 2010** – Forest Service officials with the Daniel Boone National Forest are implementing a seasonal “voluntary closure” of the Caney Loop Trail in the Cave Run Lake area. The closure extends through June 1, or until after the spring rainy season ends.

“During the wet season, when the grounds are saturated, the Caney Loop is highly susceptible to rutting due to the extremely heavy use that this particular trail receives,” said Ranger Dave Manner, Cumberland Ranger District. “Because this area is relatively flat, it does not drain well. The trail becomes very muddy, and that’s when lots of trail damage occurs.”

The closure area includes Caney Trail #1226 and a portion of Sheltopee Trace #100 from the Stoney Cove parking area to the intersection of Trail #115c that leads to the White Sulphur Horse Camp.

“To define voluntary closure, we are simply asking trail users of the Caney Loop to cooperate in an effort to minimize trail damage,” said Manner. “We are hoping to avoid as much damage as possible, which will reduce the amount of time and money needed to restore the trail back to a standard that is acceptable to all trail users.

“Until the ground becomes dry and the trail tread becomes more stable, hikers only are recommended on the Caney Loop. Other trails that exist west of Cave Run Lake are recommended to remain open for all user groups, including horseback riders and mountain bike riders. The trails east of the lake are more suitable this time of year for bikes only.”

Most trails in the Cave Run Lake area were hand constructed during the 1960s and 70s specifically for hiking. The tread, or pathway, is composed of unimproved native material. Many of these trails do not have a tread surface that can sustain intense equestrian or, in some cases, bicycle use during this critical time of the year.

“It is important to us to provide a sustainable multiple-use trail system in balance with our natural resources and in the interest of our forest visitors,” said Manner. “We look forward to the cooperation of the various groups and individuals who enjoy the trails on national forest lands.”