

# US Forest Service

## San Bernardino National Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Work Resumes on Miller Canyon Fuels Reduction Project

**San Bernardino, Calif., August 17, 2010** – Forest Service Contractors have resumed chipping and removing brush and debris along State Route 138 near Lake Silverwood.

The slash and debris piles visible along the roadways are a result of the Forest Service work in reducing the fuel loads along the northern edge of the community. The work was on pause during the limited operating period (February 1 to August 15), to reduce activity and noise during the normal breeding for the Spotted Owls roosting in nearby trees. The breeding cycle is complete and the pile removal and chipping in that area will continue into late fall and winter until the work is complete.

The reduction of fuels within the treatment areas reduces fuel loads, which results in decreased flame lengths and fireline intensities in the event of a wildfire. The change in fuels and fire behavior reduces the risk of uncharacteristically intense and severe wildfire effects to these communities and the environment. It will also provide for public and firefighter safety in areas near these communities, and lower probability of property and resource damage.

Work began on the Miller Canyon Fuels Reduction project on the Mountaintop Ranger District in 2007, to reduce hazardous fuels in Miller Canyon along the north side of the San Bernardino Mountain Range in the vicinity of Crestline, Lake Gregory, the Valley of Enchantment, Cedar Pines Park, Blue Jay, and Lake Arrowhead. The purpose of this project is to protect human communities and protect the forest ecosystem by reducing the risk of stand-replacing wildfire in habitats in the project area. Forest officials plan to complete the project during the winter of 2012.

For additional information about the San Bernardino National Forest, please visit us on the web at:

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