

Carson National Forest

Weekly Fall Color Report

October 5, 2015

- **Area with greatest amount of color:** The area around Taos is slightly past its peak.
- **Recommended viewing routes:** The High Road to Taos is still sporting some color this time of year. From Santa Fe, take US 84/285 north into Española. In the heart of Española, turn on New Mexico 76 east. Stay on that highway into a small rural high mountain community called Truchas, where the highway takes a northerly direction. The highway will go through the small communities of Ojo Sarco and Las Trampas and dead ends at NM 75. Turn right on NM 75, headed in an easterly direction. Stay on NM 75, going through communities of Peñasco and Vadito. NM 75 ends at NM 518, turn left. NM 518 connects with US 68 in Ranchos de Taos, after about 15 miles.
- Another route that is peaking this week is in Tierra Amarilla and Tres Piedras, Hopewell Lake areas. From Española, take US 84 north about 55 miles and turn on US 64 heading east up to the Brazos Cliffs. There is a turn out to look at the cliffs. US 64 will take travelers to Hopewell Lake, a beautiful mountain lake with golden Aspens. Continuing eastward on US 64, visitors can turn on US 285 and head either north into Colorado or south back to Española.
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- **Estimated peak viewing period:** Colors will be past peak by October 12.

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