

# Carson National Forest

## Weekly Fall Color Report

October 14, 2015

- **Area with greatest amount of color:** The area around Taos is past its peak.
- **Recommended viewing routes:** The High Road to Taos is still sporting some color this time of year. Although recent hard freezes may have impacted some of the color. 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 colorful this week is in the El Rito and Canjilon areas. From Espanola, take US 84 north about 55 miles and turn on NM 115 which dead ends at Canjilon, beginning a dirt road that leads to Trout Lakes and Canjilon Lakes. Another route is to travel north of Espanola on US 84 about 20 miles to NM 554 and turn east (right) and travel to El Rito, a sleepy community with beautiful views. If you continue to travel east on NM 554 it will dead end onto NM 111, you can either turn right to access US 285 and back to Espanola, or turn left to travel northerly to a small community of Vallecitos.
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- **Estimated peak viewing period:** Colors in the high country are past peak

**Remarks** The aspens and cottonwoods are quickly changing from their yellow to brown and some are simply falling off due to frosts and below freezing temperatures.

**Report submitted by:** Kathy DeLucas **Phone** 575-758-6303