

Pecos Wilderness Trail Report

If you look up into the Sangre de Cristo Range above the city of Santa Fe, you will still see a lot of white. Due to the cooler, wetter spring, the snow is slower to melt off this year. A lot of the recent April and May precipitation events dropped additional snow in the high country.

All streams are currently running higher than usual for this date. With the temperatures heating up significantly in June, these streams are expected to be running even higher, faster, and at potentially dangerous levels for the next couple of weeks. Snow level for accessibility into the high country is about 10,500 feet depending on aspect. In the lower country canyons, trails may even be under water like the Rio en Medio Trail 163. Hikers report foot cramps and extremely cold feet attempting to hike the trail in the very cold water.

The Rio Medio off Borrego Mesa is currently running very high and is not safe to cross on foot. Due to the fire damage from the 2012 Jaroso Fire, the upper part of the Rio Medio trail has been washed away. This and the numerous downed trees the past year makes the trail impassable to horses, and hazardous for hikers. Here is the Pecos Wilderness Trail report current as of May 31, 2015 from our partners, volunteers, and early season hikers:

- Back Country Horsemen-Pecos Chapter cleared Trail 25 from Jack's Creek Trailhead to Beatty's Cabin. Trail is wet/boggy in many areas.
- Backpackers are reporting very heavy snow on the Skyline Trail 251 in the Lake Katherine area.
- Santa Fe Baldy and associated north aspect trails still have considerably snow.
- Ten foot snow drifts were reported along the Quemado Falls Trail 153 near the west slopes of Truchas Peak.
- Hamilton Mesa Trail 249 from Jack's Creek Road up to Iron Gate Campground has been cleared and is free of snow.
- Winsor Trail 254 and Winsor Ridge Trail 271 have been cleared from the Winsor Trailhead near Cowles to Stewart Lake. The trails are muddy in spots but free of snow, except for a few small snow drifts near Stewart Lake.
- Cave Creek Trail 288 has been cleared to just above the caves and is free of snow to this point.
- Jack's Creek Trail 259 has been cleared to the intersection of 257 just north of Round Mountain. The trails were clear of snow to that junction. After that there were increasing amounts of snow, snow drifts, and icy trails as you approach Pecos Baldy Lake.

- The Rio Medio Trail 155 from the Borrego Trail head is passable to hikers only for the first three miles. Over 60 downed trees were encountered in those first three miles. The Rio Medio is running too high to safely cross on foot.