

Carson National Forest

Weekly Fall Color Report

Sept. 19, 2012

- **Area with greatest amount of color:** Elevations above 8,500 feet are starting to change, about a week earlier than normal.
- **Recommended viewing routes:** Best viewing now is Taos Ski Valley area. To get to Taos Ski Valley, drive north through Taos until you come to the intersection of US 64 west, NM 522, and NM 150 (known by locals as the Blinking Light) Turn right on NM 150 and this road dead ends into the parking lot of Taos Ski Valley. You can view the Taos Ski Valley Web Cams at <http://www.skitaos.org/>

Another place where leaves are starting to turn is the town of Red River. Take NM 522 north of Taos for about 25 miles and turn east on NM 38 for about 10 miles into the town of Red River. Red River Ski Area also has live webcams at <http://www.redriverskiarea.com/live-cams>

- **Estimated peak viewing period:** The colors will peak about October 1
- **Viewing tips/suggestions:**

Remarks: The aspens are changing to vibrant gold. Gambel oak is also turning to its rusty red color. Gooseberry, willows, and narrowleaf cottonwoods are turning yellow and gold along the lower elevation drainages and rivers.

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