



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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FLOODING FROM TRES LAGUNAS FIRE RESTRICTS ACCESS IN PECOS CANYON

SANTA FE, NM—JULY 29, 2013—New Mexico State Police has determined that State Road 63 from mile post 15, northbound through the Pecos Canyon must stay closed due to flash flooding and mud slides from the Tres Lagunas burn scar. Mud, rocks and other debris has been flowing over different areas of the highway almost daily, presenting dangerous driving conditions. It will remain closed until further notice. This closure restricts access to all recreation sites on the Santa Fe National Forest north of mile post 15 on State Road 63. Mile post 15 is just south of Windy Bridge Picnic Site.

The entire Holy Ghost Canyon will remain closed including Holy Ghost recreation residence special use permit holders. The Cowles cabin lessees, and Winsor and Grass Mountain recreation residence special use permit holders are also restricted until the current closure is rescinded. Only private land owners will be allowed to access their property beyond the road closure at mile post 15.

Private landowners should use extreme caution while driving due to fast-moving debris that has been flowing over the road from the Tres Lagunas fire scar. To report flooding over Highway 63 call the New Mexico Department of Transportation at 505-617-5700. Debris flow from future rainfall is likely and could intensify. This could also cause bridges to wash out with the potential to leave the public trapped since there is only one way in and out of Pecos Canyon. Traffic notifications will be posted on www.nmroads.com, and can be retrieved by calling 511 in state, and 1-800-432-4269 out of state.

Those who live downstream from burned areas should be aware that the potential for flooding and debris flows increases dramatically after a fire. Residents living near or around a recently burned area should:

- Monitor local weather reports and public safety bulletins, local road closures, emergency notifications, weather alerts, and follow local, county, and city advisories.
- Use a Weather Radio (<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/allhazard.htm>), or smart phone weather app— AccuWeather, Weather Channel or WeatherBug. All apps are free and available on both Android and iOS platforms.
- Prepare to evacuate if emergency authorities determine that flooding and mudflows are expected.
- If you are out hiking in a dry wash or arroyo, at the first sign of a storm, seek higher ground. Even if it's not right over you, the storm may be up-stream from your location.

Please take personal responsibility and recreate safely when in the forest. You must be fully aware of where you are, the weather conditions, and what areas are closed because of the fires and potential downslope flooding.

Closed Areas in the Pecos Canyon

- Panchuela Campground (CG)/Trailhead (TH)
- Holy Ghost CG/TH/Reservation Site
- Jacks Creek TH/ CG/ Equestrian CG
- Field Tract CG
- Forest Road (FR) 123 Dalton Canyon
- Upper Dalton Fishing Site
- Lower Dalton Picnic Site
- Windy Bridge Picnic Site
- Iron Gate CG/TH
- Winsor TH

- Cowles CG/TH
- Cowles Pond Fishing Site
- FR646 "Davis Willow Road"
- Davis Willow/Links Tract Dispersed Camping Site
- Elk Mountain TH
- Rainy Day Dispersed Camping Site
- Forest Service lands within 100 feet of the water's edge of the Pecos River

Open Areas in the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District

- FR92 - Cow Creek/Valle De Osha
- FR86 - Bull Creek
- FR83 - Barillas Lookout
- FR375 – Glorieta Lookout
- FR79 - Arroyo Hondo
- Glorieta/Rowe Mesa Areas
- El Pueblo/Anton Chico Areas
- FR273 - Gallinas Canyon
- FR18 Mineral Hill Area
- FR165 – Johnson Mesa Area
- Johnson Mesa CG
- El Porvenir CG/TH
- EV Long CG
- Baker Flats Day Use Site
- Oak Flats Day Use Site
- Big Pine Day Use Site
- FR637 Las Dispensas Area
- FR632/638 Capulin Area
- FR113 walker Flats Area
- Walker Flats TH

Pecos Wilderness trails east of Pecos River drainage are open via the trailheads listed above.

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