



NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service • Santa Fe National Forest • 11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
Tel: (505) 438-5300 • Email: sfnfpao@fs.fed.us • Web: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/> • Twitter: @SantafeNF



For Immediate Release

For Pecos Ranger District Information: (505) 757-6121
Media Contact: Denise Ottaviano (505) 438-5320

PARTIAL OPENING OF SITES AFFECTED BY FIRES ON SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST

SANTA FE, NM—August 7, 2013—Some areas of the Santa Fe National Forest affected by the Jaroso and Tres Lagunas fires are now open to the public. The area of Forest Service land within the Pecos Wilderness that was affected by the Jaroso Fire is now open with the exception of some seasonal trail closures and one seasonal site closure due to the potential for flooding. In wilderness, natural processes—even hazardous ones—are generally allowed to work without human intervention. Accordingly, even though the burn area is now open, areas that experienced extreme fire conditions present the public with numerous post fire hazards. **These hazards include the higher potential for falling trees, unstable hillsides with rolling boulders and debris, collapsing soils where roots have burned out, numerous fallen trees on the trail, and the difficulty of navigation where the trail path may no longer be visible.** Because of these hazards, it is recommended that the public avoid travel within these areas.

List of trails within the Jaroso burn - **Not Recommended for Travel:**

- **Skyline Trail 251** from Horsethief Meadow to Pecos Baldy Lake
- **Rito Pero Trail 256** from the Jacks Creek Trail 257 to the Skyline Trail 251
- **Jacks Creek Trail 257** from the junction of the Dockweiller Trail 259 to Pecos Baldy Lake
- **Dockweiller Trail 259** from the junction of the Rito Pero Trail 256 to Sebadillosos Trail 245
- **Horsethief Meadow Trail 253** to the Capulin Trail 158
- **Sierra Mosca Trail 156** from the Capulin Trail 158 to junction of the Agua Sarca Trail 228
- **Capulin Trail 158** from Panchuela West to the Rio Medio – closed by debris since 2006

The following trails and site will be closed through the monsoon season (through September 30) due to risk of flooding from the Jaroso fire burn scar:

- **Cave Creek Trail 288** from Panchuela campground to the junction of Skyline Trail 251 south of Horsethief Meadows.
- **Rio Medio Trail 155** from Borrego Mesa to the junction of the 351 Trail to Trail Riders Wall.
- **Frijoles Trail 154** in its entirety, from the Forest Service boundary to the junction of Capulin Trail 158.
- **Capulin Trail 158** in its entirety, from the junction of the Frijoles Trail 154 to its junction with the Rio Medio Trail 155.
- **Forest Service Road 305** in its entirety, from Cowles Road 121 to its ending at Panchuela Campground.
- **Panchuela campground and trailhead**

As of Noon on Wednesday, August 7th New Mexico State Police lifted the closure on State Highway 63 north of Pecos, NM. Access is now available to most recreation sites on the Pecos Ranger District of the Santa Fe National Forest. Forest Service sites that are open and accessible in the Pecos Canyon include:

- Jacks Creek campground and equestrian area
- Iron Gate campground
- Cowles campground
- Cowles Pond fishing site
- Winsor trailhead
- Links Tract (Davis Willow) dispersed camping
- Forest Road 646 (Davis Willow road)
- Cowles Leased Cabins
- Winsor Summer Homes
- Grass Mountain Summer Homes

Despite the opening of Highway 63, the following areas in the Pecos Canyon will remain closed through September 30, 2013, due to potential flood impacts from the Tres Lagunas fire:

- Holy Ghost Canyon, including Holy Ghost campground and trailhead, and Holy Ghost recreation residences
- Lower and Upper Dalton day-use areas
- Field Tract campground
- Windy Bridge picnic site
- Forest Service lands within 100 feet of the water's edge of the Pecos River below the Tres Lagunas fire area

Although Highway 63 is now open, the public should use extreme caution while driving due to debris that has been flowing over the road from the Tres Lagunas fire scar. Debris flow from future rainfall is likely to cause intermittent closures of the road while NM Department of Transportation (DOT) crews work to clear the road. To report flooding over Highway 63 call the NMDOT at 505-617-5700.

For questions about the availability of NM Game and Fish properties in Pecos Canyon, please call the NM Game and Fish at 888-248-6866.

###