



# News Release

USDA Forest Service  
Cibola National Forest and Grasslands  
Sandia Ranger District  
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## For Immediate Release

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### *Capulin Snow Play Area Closed*

**TIJERAS, NM, November 27, 2013.** The Cibola National Forest's Sandia Ranger District announced today that they do not anticipate opening the Capulin Snow Play Area this winter season. "For the past two years, the district has been actively recruiting a business or an organization to manage the area," said District Ranger Cid Morgan. "Many national forests with intensely used recreation areas seek private industry to run these areas," said Morgan. "We are continuing to seek a private company to manage this area, but until this happens, the Capulin Snow Play Area will be closed."

Morgan said that there are still many opportunities to enjoy the Sandia Ranger District. She said that the following parking areas will be plowed intermittently during the winter season to provide access to National Forest System lands to be used at your own risk: Doc Long; Tree Springs; 10 K North and South; Balsam Glade; Ellis Trail Head and the Crest. The parking lots and areas will not be staffed, so please use caution and be aware of weather conditions.

Albuquerque might be dry and clear of snow, but the weather at higher elevation can be very different. Here are some winter safety tips to stay safe when recreating in the winter:

- Be prepared when traveling in ice-packed snow conditions in the mountains.
- Use a vehicle that has 4-wheel drive or snow chains and know how to put chains on in case you need them.
- Have a shovel to get yourself out if your vehicle gets stuck in the snow.
- Have extra blankets, food, and water.
- Make sure someone knows where you are going.
- Remember that cell phones might not work in mountainous areas.
- Do not park in no parking zones to minimize risks to other travelers.
- ***Finally, think before you travel into the mountains during the winter. Not being prepared can be deadly!***

For additional information, please contact Ruth Sutton, Public Affairs Officer at 505.346.3900.