

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Santa Fe National Forest



For Immediate Release

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July 1, 2004

MOST FOREST AREAS REOPEN

(SANTA FE, NM)— “Recent moisture over the past week has decreased extreme fire danger in the Santa Fe National Forest. We will be opening most of the recently closed areas effective tomorrow, Friday, July 2, 2004. Remaining closed areas will be re-evaluated following the July 4th weekend, said Paul Orozco, Fire Management Officer.

West Side of the Forest (Jemez Mountains)—under Stage II Restrictions:

Jemez Ranger District including the Dome Wilderness will re-open and remain under Stage II Fire Restrictions.

Cuba Ranger District--The area south of State Highway 126 on the Cuba Ranger District will also re-open under Stage II Restrictions.

Coyote Ranger District--Remains open under Stage II Restrictions

San Pedro Parks Wilderness and the Chama River Canyon Wilderness open with no restrictions.

In the Los Alamos area (Española Ranger District): portions of the Cerro Grande Fire Area near Los Alamos remain closed to public access under Closure Order issued in May of 2000. This includes closure to all entry in Guaje Canyon and all national forest system lands north and east to Santa Clara Reservation boundary. Los Alamos Canyon is also closed to all entry rim to rim. Areas south and west of Guaje Canyon remain open to foot, horse, and bicycle traffic, but closed to motorized use.

East Side of the Forest (Sangre de Cristo Mountains)—under Stage II Restrictions:

Española Ranger District (near Santa Fe)---National forest lands and trails along Hyde Park Road (NM475) will remain closed to entry, not just the trails themselves but also the lands surrounding them. The very popular Winsor Trail #254 is open from the Ski area north to the Pecos Wilderness. It is closed below the Santa Fe Ski Area at all access points including trailheads in the Tesuque area. Camping and picnic areas along Hyde Park Road are open under Stage II Fire Restrictions—no campfires, charcoal or wood stoves, etc. are allowed;

Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District--- Near Pecos: All camping and recreation sites remain open in the Pecos Canyon (State Highway 63) under Stage II Restrictions. Areas previously closed: Dalton Canyon, La Cueva and Canada de Los Alamos near Glorieta will remain closed.

Near Las Vegas: El Porvenir Campground remains open with access to Pecos Wilderness. EV Long Campground and Forest Rd. 18— Mineral Hill to Johnson Mesa will remain closed through the July 4th holiday.

The Pecos Wilderness remains under Stage II Restrictions.

Under Stage II Fire Restrictions: The following are prohibited--smoking outside of vehicles, or buildings; open campfires or use of charcoal broiler, or a coal or wood stove fires, explosives, chainsaw or other internal combustion engines, welding, and using a motor vehicle off development roads and trails;

Absolutely, no fireworks at any time on national forest system lands.

The latest in Closure and Restriction information can be accessed via <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire>. Additional information on restrictions/closures can be obtained by calling, 1-877-864-6985.

