

NEWS RELEASE

Valles Caldera Trust, Valles Caldera National Preserve
USDA Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest
New Mexico State Game & Fish



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Forest lifts fire restrictions

SANTA FE, NM; July 11, 2012— Effective Thursday, July 12 at 8:00 a.m. the Santa Fe National Forest will go from Stage 2 Fire Restrictions to no fire restrictions forest-wide, to include the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Current monsoon rains and favorable weather forecasts are allowing for the complete lifting of fire restrictions.

“We’ve experienced some of the driest conditions this forest has seen in many years,” said Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor, Maria T. Garcia. “The monsoon rains are a very welcome relief, and I’m glad to see conditions improve enough to lift fire restrictions throughout the forest.”

Forest visitors are still encouraged to use caution with campfires and other sources of ignition.

“Just because we’re lifting restrictions doesn’t mean people can be careless, because wildfires can still start up,” Garcia said. “The recreating public is responsible for making sure they don’t start wildfires by ensuring they completely put out their campfires, and that fires don’t start due to other human causes.”

Dennis Trujillo, Valles Caldera Trust Executive Director, has fought wildfires close to home and around the world during his career with the Forest Service.

“Safety should be everyone’s priority when enjoying the outdoors,” Trujillo said. “Safety begins when you plan your trip. Know the environment you’ll be entering and equip yourself with adequate clothing, food and water; and always be fire wise.”

For more information regarding forest recreation opportunities, please contact the Santa Fe National Forest at (505) 438-5300, or visit us online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/santafe>.

For general information regarding ongoing fire activity on the Santa Fe National Forest please call 1-877-971-3473, or visit www.nmfireinfo.com. Also, follow us on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/SantafeNF>.

