



NEWS RELEASE

**Valles Caldera Trust, Valles Caldera National Preserve
USDA Forest Service
Santa Fe National Forest**

For Immediate Release

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PARTIAL LIFTING OF FIRE RESTRICTIONS FOR THE SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST

(SANTA FE, NM)— The Santa Fe National Forest is lifting fire restrictions for portions of the forest effective Saturday, July 30. “The recent arrival of monsoonal rains and other changes in weather patterns have brought a welcome relief from extreme conditions,” said Forest Supervisor, Maria T. Garcia.

The Las Conchas Fire and the Pacheco Fire areas will remain in Stage III Fire Closures. The Jemez Ranger District, portions of the Cuba Ranger District and the Valles Caldera National Preserve will implement Stage I Fire Restrictions.

The Valles Caldera will resume normal summer activities excluding those which normally occur in the burned areas. Fishing programs remain suspended until further notice.

During Stage I Fire Restrictions campfires are only allowed in Forest Service developed camp and picnic grounds where grills and grates are provided. Smoking is permitted only in vehicles, in developed campgrounds, or in areas cleared at least three feet in diameter of all flammable material. Gas and propane stoves, lanterns or heating devices are permitted providing such devices meet the fire underwriter’s specifications for safety. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of fire work or other pyrotechnic device is illegal.

The Paliza Campground on the Jemez Ranger District will remain closed while it continues to be used as a spike camp for firefighters from the Las Conchas Fire. Jemez Falls campground will be closed this weekend, but opened on Monday, August 1. The Holy Ghost Campground on the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District is undergoing facility reconstruction and remains closed.

The Las Conchas fire has created significant safety hazards for anyone entering the burned area, including threats from flash flooding, falling trees and rolling rocks. We are placing a high priority on assessing hazards that would potentially affect the public using Forest System Roads that access private land within the burned area.

For more information on the Santa Fe National Forest, call Bruce Hill, Jr. (505) 438-5320. For the Valles Caldera National Preserve information, call (866)382-5537. For a copy of the Las Conchas and Pacheco Fire Area Closure Orders please visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/>

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