

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST LIFTS FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Alamogordo, N.M., (July 10, 2003) -- Effective July 10, 2003 at 8 a.m., the Lincoln National Forest will lift **ALL** fire and smoking restrictions. Recent rains and the onset of the Monsoon season have allowed the fire restrictions that have been in effect to be lifted. Smoking, campfires and the use of charcoal grills are permitted in the Forest and campgrounds. As always, fireworks are prohibited on all National Forest system lands.

“The moisture we have recently received on the Smokey Bear and Sacramento Ranger Districts is allowing me to lift the fire restrictions,” said Jose Martinez, Forest Supervisor. “All Lincoln National Forest employees would like to say thank you to the public for their cooperation during the imposed restrictions.”

The Village of Ruidoso and Cloudcroft, along with the surrounding mountain communities remind those who visit to patronize their shops and restaurants.

As a reminder, it will take more rains and snow through the rest of the monsoon and winter seasons to help bring moisture levels back up within the Forest. Please continue to practice good fire safety.