



Pecos Wilderness Trail Report: September 15, 2010

Warm summer temperatures persist, but there is a tinge of fall in the air now. Mornings around the campstove are cooler, and though the monsoonal pattern has passed, we are currently experiencing a low front with the chance of some moisture. Aspens have yet to adopt their fall colors, but the shorter days signal that a change is coming, and we prepare to say goodbye to summer.

Lightning is still a possibility- if accessing high peaks plan your approach early in the morning to avoid the possibility of afternoon lightning. Watch for weather to move in and try to be off high peaks and ridges by noon! As always, on any trails, consider leaving your dog(s) at home, or at least have them leashed. Hiker/dog, dog/dog, horse/dog conflicts seem to be increasing.

Black bears have also been active across the state, with numerous bear/human interactions. Be bear aware.

Recent Trail Clearing and Maintenance Information:

Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District, (Santa Fe National Forest)-

- Larkspur # 260 from the 260/249 jct. to it's terminus at Pecos River.
- Bob Grounds # 270 from the 270/249 jct. to the 270/260 junction.
- Hamilton Mesa # 249 from TH15 to TH17 & from TH17 to the 239/249 junction.
- Rociada # 250 from the 249/250 jct. to the 250/251 junction.
- Gascon # 239 from the 25/239 jct. to the 239/224 junction.
- South Azul # 255 from the 264/255 jct. to the 255/257 junction.
- North Fork # 269 from TH22 to the 269/233 jct. & from the jct. with road 113E to North Fork Lake.
- Agua Fria # 233 from the southern 269/233 jct. to the northern 269/233 junction.

Espanola Ranger District, (Santa Fe National Forest)-

- Winsor Trail # 254 from the ski area trailhead to Puerto Nambe.
- Rio Nambe # 160 from Wilderness boundary to Puerto Nambe.
- Capulin Meadows trail #162 has been cleared from the #160/#162 junction up to the high saddle on top.
- One mile of tread on the Capulin Meadows Trail #162 has had heavy maintenance.
- Rio Frijoles #154 from Wilderness Boundary for approximately two miles in.
- Rio Medio #155 has been cleared from the trailhead at Borrego Mesa to the#351 junction.
- Joe Vigil #351 has been cleared to Trailrider's Wall, and Vigil Lake #352 cleared to Jose Vigil Lake.
- Skyline Trail #251 from the ski area to the Winsor #254 at Puerto Nambe.
- Upper Nambe Trail #101 is clear.
- Borrego #150 is clear from TH 8 to just past Rio Frijoles, and from TH 9 to Rio Capulin- there is about a two mile stretch in between that has not been cleared.

Camino Real Ranger District, (Carson National Forest)-

- Trampas Lakes #31 and Hidden Lakes #45 have been cleared of deadfall.
- Serpent Lake #19 from junction with Trail #26 up to and both sides of the divide.
- Clearing, tread work and signage improvements have been done on the Jicarita National Recreation Trail (comprised of the Indian Creek Trail #27, Divide Trail #36 up over Jicarita Peak, and Serpent Lake Trail #19).

All Camino Real RD Wilderness trails have been cleared except for San Leonardo Lakes #30.

The bridge replacement project along the Santa Barbara Middle Fork Trail #24, temporarily postponed for a short while, is back on track. All packing of materials has been completed, both approaches have been stabilized and stringers are currently getting installed. Decking, railing, etc coming soon. Expect to see US Forest Service employees, packstock, and members of the Southwest Conservation Crew along this trail at any time within that timeframe. Also be aware that the bridge that crosses the Rio Santa Barbara will not be accessible for use during this time- all trail users will need to ford the Rio Santa Barbara.

Contact- For more information contact the Ranger Districts directly (Pecos/Las Vegas @ (505) 757-6121, Espanola @ (505) 753-7331, or Camino Real @ (575) 587-2255) or go to the Santa Fe National Forest website: www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/