

# HORSESHOE 2 BAER NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service  
Coronado National Forest  
Supervisor's Office

[www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado)



*For Immediate Release*

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**National Weather Service Photo:** The finished weather station. The tall pole behind and slightly left of the new weather station is a lightning rod and will help protect the station from lightning strikes.

## HORSESHOE 2 FIRE AREA TRANSMITTING WEATHER DATA

Portal, AZ (August 12, 2011) – On August 2, the National Weather Service (NWS) and National Park Service installed a new weather station in the Chiricahua National Monument that was recently burned in the Horseshoe 2 Fire. A second NWS station was also recently installed with the assistance of the Forest Service on a 9,000 foot peak near Rustler Park in the Chiricahua Mountains. Both weather stations include precipitation gauges.

The weather data from both units communicate in real-time via amateur radio automatic packet reporting system and are transmitting weather data every five minutes. The NWS is monitoring the stations for rainfall, among other weather elements, in order to issue more timely Flash Flood Warnings and Flood Advisories to nearby communities and recreational areas.

In addition to the two NWS weather stations, the Arizona Department of Water Resources and Cochise County are coordinating with other agencies to install two ALERT rain gauges in the burn area of the Chiricahua Mountains. The gauges transmit data using radio signals. The purpose of the gauges is to provide real-time rainfall data to the NWS to assist in the issuance of flood warnings and watches and to provide Cochise County staff and the public with local rainfall information.

Most of the Chiricahua Mountains remain closed to provide for public safety related to flooding and road reconstruction or stabilization following the Horseshoe 2 Fire. The closure will remain in effect until October 15, 2011, or until rescinded, whichever is earlier. Travelers should use caution when driving on roads downstream from the fire area and avoid crossing swift-flowing water. Landowners living downstream from the burned areas should be prepared to have egress routes blocked until roads can be reopened. The Coronado National Forest's storm patrol crew is on stand-by and will clean out culverts and debris after each reoccurring storm in Horseshoe 2 Fire area when it is safe to do so.

For additional information regarding the status of Forest Service roads near the Horseshoe 2 Fire area, please call the Douglas Ranger District office at (520) 364-3468, or the Coronado National Forest's website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/coronado/index.shtml>.

Data from the two NWS weather stations is available on the internet at <http://aprs.fi/?addr=Portal%2C%20AZ>. Photos of the unit installed on the Chiricahua National Monument are available on the NWS Tucson Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.156556631088196.40021.125036677573525&type=1>.