

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Lincoln National Forest
3463 Las Palomas Road
Alamogordo, NM 88310



Peg Crim

575-434-7200

SMOKEY BEAR DISTRICT EMERGENCY CLOSURE

Alamogordo, NM (June 11, 2012) – A large portion of the Smokey Bear Ranger District is now closed to public use to protect the health and safety of both the public and the firefighters working on Little Bear Fire. This closure will remain in effect until July 31st or may be rescinded earlier when the area is again safe for public use.

The area closed includes all National Forest lands between Highway 380 and the northern boundary of the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation. During this closure, forest visitors are encouraged to utilize the Sacramento and Guadalupe Ranger Districts, as well as other state and federal lands, for forest activities. Local communities are still open for business. Please check with the Ruidoso Visitor Center about available accommodations and attractions at 575-257-7395.

Permittees, utilities, and entities providing critical services that need access should contact the Smokey Bear Ranger District at 575-257-4095.

For more information on forest activities please visit the Lincoln National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/lincoln, or call the Sacramento District at 575-682-2551, the Guadalupe District at 575-885-4181, or the Supervisor's Office at 575-434-7200. To view road closures, visit www.nmroads.com.

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