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## Las Conchas BAER Team Update

July 11, 2011

*Flash floods are possible for Tuesday July 12. The Las Conchas BAER Team is asking everyone to stay cognizant of their surroundings when entering and traveling in the vicinity of the fire. Monsoon rains may result in large flood events, debris flow, rolling rocks, and falling trees all of which could block vehicular travel. Remember, it does not need to be raining where you are for a flash flood to occur.*

### **North Zone-Santa Clara Canyon and North**

The watershed specialists started in Santa Clara Canyon and had to leave due to rain so continued onto San Ildefonso to do soil assessments for the burn severity map. On Tuesday they plan to go back to Santa Clara Canyon and continue. They will also meet with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Dam Safety Specialist. Only two concrete barriers remain to be placed and most of the sandbagging has been completed.

Hazard tree felling began today and is scheduled to continue on Tuesday along the road into Santa Clara Canyon. Intermittent road closures will occur as trees are felled across the road.

Wildlife Specialists met with the South Zone Specialists in Jemez to make sure everything was being assessed. They plan to visit the north side of the fire to recon for the Rio Grande Cut Throat Trout. A meeting will occur with the Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss what has been found up to this point for Section 7 consultation.

### **South Zone-South of Santa Clara Canyon**

South Zone team members continued to calibrate satellite images that will allow them to produce a burn severity map for the fire. Thunderstorms developed early in the day and limited the time that helicopters could be in the air, but soil scientists completed several canyon surveys. In Guaje and Los Alamos canyons, they adjusted the severity from high to moderate in two large areas. On the southwest edge of the fire, observers surveyed Peralta Canyon and areas near the still expanding fire perimeter that were not mapped by the satellite pass last week.

BAER hydrologists accompanied members of the Cochiti Tribal Council to evaluate culverts, bridges and other infrastructure and property that may be impacted by floodwaters in Peralta Canyon and along the Rio Chiquito.

Team members completed a soil map of the burned area. This map will be used in conjunction with other data to begin prediction of potential flood waters in the most severely affected watersheds.

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Archeologists continued their evaluation of cultural resource sites on Bandelier National Monument, the Santa Fe National Forest, and the Valles Caldera National Preserve. In Bandelier, archeologists concentrated on nine sites on the west side of Sanchez Canyon that were 100 percent burned.

Infrastructure evaluations of water supplies, roads, culverts, and pipelines are on-going. Biologists complete wildlife habitat surveys and will begin generating specialist reports tomorrow. Biologists assessed elk habitat and locations known to hold species of special concern. Fisheries specialists determined sections of streams that hold fish populations that may be impacted by floodwaters.

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