



Jaroso BAER Assessment Update – July 11, 2013

PECOS, NM (July 11, 2013) – For the past few days, the Jaroso burn scar has experienced some rain events. On Wednesday, July 10 at noon, Lynn Bjorklund, Forest Service Recreation and Wilderness Program Manager for the Española Ranger Station, shared these observations for Rio Frijoles and Rio Medio at their junction at the State Highway 503 road:

- Rio Medio flowed about a foot higher than normal after the rain event on July 9.
- Rio Frijoles did not show as much increased flow after the rain event, but ran more black for the afternoon than the Rio Medio.
- Rio Medio on July 10 was back to near normal flows, but was still a little more silty than normal.
- Rio Frijoles looked more silty than the Rio Medio on July 10.
- Both rivers looked more brown with silt on July 10 rather than black with ash.

“I checked the condition of the Rio Frijoles and Rio Medio where they meet at the crossing of road 503. I talked with a local man who lived in the area, who said that the Rio Frijoles ran rather black right after the rain yesterday (Tuesday, July 9), but today (July 10), not looking as bad. The river looked more brown than black today. The local man said that even though it doesn't look too bad today, he can see the difference in the water quality compared to “normal.” He expressed surprise that we thought the Rio Medio would be more of a problem than the Rio Frijoles. The Rio Frijoles appeared to show more silt and ash, but the Rio Medio ran about a foot higher than “normal”. You could see the high water line from yesterday over the pushed down grass. Another thunderstorm was building in the mountains as I took these following pictures”:



Rio Medio & Frijoles have joined-looking downstream from the confluence: A little muddy



Close up of the rivers after joining: silty but not too bad



Rio Frijoles just before joining the Rio Medio at the Bridge: High water measuring stick to the left.



Rio Medio: Across the bank you can see the grass laying down where the river was running higher yesterday.



Another picture of the Rio Frijoles: No obvious high water marks from yesterday.



Additional Picture of just after the rivers join on the west side of the bridge



Rio Medio before joining the Rio Frijoles



Photo of the rivers on the west side of the bridge showing the silty condition.

Additional observations and photos from Daniel Mondragon, Forestry Technician for the Santa Fe National Forest, at the Española Ranger Station, taken at 3:00pm, on Wednesday, July 10:

- Not much noticeable change from 12:00pm on July 10, but the Rio Medio is running a little higher and both rivers, especially the Rio Frijoles, have more silt and ash.



Rio Medio



West of bridge after both rivers have joined, both top and bottom pictures (2of2).



West of bridge after both rivers have joined, both top and bottom pictures (1of2).



Rio Frijoles

It is expected that more ash and muddy flows will occur as high severity burn areas in the upper areas of the Pecos River and the Rio Medio and Rio Frijoles drainages receive heavy rain showers. Residents living adjacent to and downstream of burned areas need to monitor weather reports and public safety bulletins, and be aware of current weather conditions and forecasts.

SPECIAL NOTE: *Everyone near and downstream from the fire area should remain alert and stay updated on weather conditions that may result in heavy rains over the burn scar. Flash flooding may occur quickly during heavy rain events. Current weather and emergency notifications can be found at the **National Weather Service, Albuquerque Office** (<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/abq/>) website.*

As updated information becomes available,
it will be posted on InciWeb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/3491/>.

