



News Release

Public Affairs Office
PO Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103
505/248-6911
505/248-6915 (Fax)

Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest>

For Release: January 14, 2011

Contacts: Tom Melanson, (575) 835-1828 or Tom_Melanson@fws.gov

REFUGE TO RE-OPEN AREAS CLOSED DUE TO MOUNTAIN LION ACTIVITY

Tom Melanson, Manager of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, announced today that beginning Tuesday, February 1, 2011 areas within the Bosque del Apache NWR, which have been closed due to Mountain Lion Activity will re-open to the public. The areas to be re-opened include the Rio Viejo Hiking Trail, the Education Campgrounds, and all refuge lands east of the Low Flow Conveyance, and the Little San Pascual Wilderness Area.

“An increase in mountain lion activity in 2010 warranted the temporary precautionary closures,” said Melanson. “We initiated a study and while the study is still being conducted, re-opening the closed areas on the refuge will not impact its outcome.” Mountain Lion Warning Notices will be posted on all trails, observation structures, overlooks, and throughout the refuge visitor center complex. In addition, notices will appear in refuge brochures, on its web-site, and in future media. Additionally, pet restrictions currently in effect will continue to be enforced throughout the refuge. “There are still mountain lions on the refuge,” Melanson said, “But we feel confident that with these measures in place, a better informed public will act accordingly when visiting the refuge.”

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.