

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Sarah Cottrell Propst, Cabinet Secretary
Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Laura McCarthy, State Forestry Division Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Wendy Mason
Wildfire Prevention and Communications Coordinator
wendy.mason@state.nm.us
505-476-3209



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**New Mexico State Forestry to Reopen Outdoor Memorials and
Interpretive Garden at Smokey Bear Historical Park
*for limited access beginning June 8th***

Santa Fe – The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department’s (EMNRD) Forestry Division will reopen the grounds of Smokey Bear Historical Park in Capitan, New Mexico for limited access beginning June 8, 2020. The visitor’s center will remain closed until further notice. In addition, capacity limits of no more than 10 visitors at one time will be allowed within the boundaries of the park between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. To ensure visitor safety, all guests are required to wear face masks and urged to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or more from those not from your household.

“During our first phase of reopening it is important to move slowly as directed by the Governor to make sure guests and staff are protected from the spread of COVID-19 for the foreseeable future,” said State Forester Laura McCarthy. “We appreciate the patience and understanding of the many visitors who’ve had to change or cancel plans to come to Smokey Bear Historical Park this spring due to the stay-at-home order and shutdown.

Visitors will find many fascinating exhibits within the grounds of the 2-acre park, including information about the unique vegetative life zones found in New Mexico, the final resting place of the living symbol Smokey Bear, and the only Fallen Wildland Firefighter Memorial in the state.

The Forestry Division urges anyone who feels sick to stay home. Park employees will be taking extra precautions to ensure the outdoor displays are kept clean and sanitary. Restroom facilities located inside the visitor’s center will remain closed. The Forestry Division looks forward to reopening the visitor’s center in the coming weeks.

For more information call Smokey Bear Historical Park at (575) 354-2748 or the Capitan District Office at (575) 354-2231.



Smokey Bear's final resting place



Interpretive gardens



NM Wildland Fallen Firefighter Memorial

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us>