



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Guadalupe Mountains
National Park

400 Pine Canyon Drive
Salt Flat, TX 79847

915-828-3251 phone
915-828-3269 fax

Guadalupe Mountains News Release

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Karl M. Pierce

Phone number: 432-940-2440

Email: Karl_Pierce@nps.gov

Date: September 13, 2013

Release code: 13-08

Guadalupe Mountains National Park Storm Closure Update

(Pine Springs, TX) Park Superintendent Dennis A. Vásquez announced that although most of the park areas closed by the recent storm will remain closed, the park is beginning to open some areas, as park staff is able to assess damage and begin effecting repairs from heavy rains and flooding.

The Pine Springs Visitor Center remains open to provide information and assist visitors and motorists, and the Pine Springs Campground and the Pinery have reopened. Frijole Ranch Road is open as far as the corral, and visitors may hike from there to Smith Spring, from the west side only, and to Manzanita Spring. The Smith Spring Trail remains closed between Smith Spring and Manzanita Spring. The Guadalupe Peak Trail, the Horse Trail from Guadalupe Peak, the Pinery Trail and the first mile, only, of the Devil's Hall Trail have reopened, as well. The Guadalupe Peak Backcountry Campground is also open. However, most trails still have loose rocks and uneven ground, and many require shallow water crossings, and hikers and backpackers should exercise extreme caution. The park hopes to open the Frijole Ranch Cultural History Museum tomorrow morning.

McKittrick Canyon, Williams Ranch, the Salt Basin Dunes, Dog Canyon and all other backcountry areas, unpaved roads and trails will remain closed, at least through the weekend, as water levels continue to recede and the park begins to dry out.

“This was a very unusual event. Even people who have been here a long time cannot remember a rain event like this. The ground is still saturated in many areas, and creeks, arroyos, springs and seeps are still running, even though the water has receded. Williams Ranch Road and several trails have washed out areas, which will take time to repair. We are continuing to monitor and assess conditions, and will continue to open the closed areas of the park as soon as it is safe to do so. As always, our primary concern is for the safety of park visitors and staff,

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

and for the protection of park resources,” said Vásquez.

The Texas Department of Transportation reported that FM 1437, FM 2249 and FM1575, in the Dell City area, are now open. However, the New Mexico Department of Transportation is reporting that NM 137 to Dog Canyon will remain closed between mile marker 1 and mile marker 54 until early next week. There will be no access to Dog Canyon until that road re-opens. The National Weather Service reported that the Bowl recorded 12.41 inches of rain during a 24 hour period from September 11-12, while Dog Canyon recorded 9.50 inches, McKittrick Canyon recorded 7.32 inches and the Pinery recorded 5.12 inches. The Texas Tech University West Texas Mesonet (<http://www.mesonet.ttu.edu>) weather station, located near the park’s fire cache, registered 15.73 inches of rain between September 9 and 14, including 13.50 inches during a 24 hour period on September 12-13.

Park information, including park conditions, closures or restrictions, weather and program information, may be found on the park’s website at www.nps.gov/GUMO/, on the park’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GuadalupeMountains/, or by contacting the Pine Springs Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 x2124. The Pine Springs Visitor Center is open daily (except for Christmas) from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM. The McKittrick Canyon, Frijole Ranch House, Dog Canyon and Salt Basin Dunes (Dell City, TX) Visitor Contact Stations are open intermittently. Please call the Pine Springs Visitor Center at (915) 828-3251 x2124 to find out whether they are open. For Dog Canyon, call the Dog Canyon Visitor Contact Station/Ranger Station at (575) 981-2418.

For the latest weather information for Guadalupe Mountains National Park, see <http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=TXZ258> or <http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=TXZ421>. For the latest road information, call 511, or visit www.drivetexas.org/ for Texas or <http://nmroads.com/> for New Mexico.

-NPS-