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***GALESTEO DAM AND PART OF TETILLA PEAK REMAIN CLOSED DUE TO DRY CONDITIONS***

**Albuquerque, N.M.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been receiving a lot of calls from the public about why they have not reopened Galesteo Dam and the Santa Cruz Road at the Tetilla Peak Recreation Area at Cochiti Lake. Ever since the recent opening of National Forest lands, the public has inquired about when the Cochiti areas will also reopen. Both areas have been closed to pedestrian and vehicle traffic since May 14 due to extremely dry conditions and, unfortunately, that has not changed, according to Dave Dutton, acting reservoir manager at Cochiti.

“The rainfall just keeps missing us,” Dutton said. “So far, we’ve only received .14 inches of rain here, so the risk for fire remains high.” The average rainfall for Cochiti Lake for the month of July is 1.98 inches. The minimum recorded rainfall amount for July was .21 inches and the current rainfall received is only two-thirds of that.

“We understand people are frustrated since this is the height of the recreation season, but we have to protect both people and the environment,” he said.

Galisteo Dam is primarily a dry reservoir located six miles east of Interstate 25, at exit #264. The boat ramp and campground at Tetilla Peak have remained open to public use.