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# News Release

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## Easter Egg Hunt at Cedar Creek Picnic Area Canceled

**Ruidoso, NM** – April 7, 2020 – The annual Easter egg hunt, which was to be held at Cedar Creek Picnic Area Saturday, April 11 has been canceled to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Each year the Village of Ruidoso hosts an Easter egg hunt on the Lincoln National Forest complete with 5000 eggs and a visit from the Easter Bunny. The Village of Ruidoso made the decision to cancel the Easter egg hunt this year after a health order was issued by Secretary of Health Kathy Kunkel, which restricted mass gatherings of no more than individuals in outdoor spaces.

“Usually, we would love to see families outdoors enjoying their National Forest at the Easter egg hunt,” said District Ranger Jodie Canfield. “However, this is not a normal spring. For the safety of the public, Village employees, Forest Service employees, and the nation’s essential workers, it was necessary to cancel the event.”

The Easter egg hunt has been canceled; however, The Lincoln National Forest remains open. The public can still use trails and dispersed camp in areas outside of designated campgrounds. Please adhere to social distancing protocols and group size recommendations.

This year it is especially critical to extinguish your campfires completely. Campfires should be cool to the touch before leaving them. Never leave a campfire unattended.

“Unfortunately, we’ve already had to deploy crews to put out unattended campfires this year,” Acting Assistant Fire Management Office Errick Kimbrell stated. “When responding to a fire, firefighters come in close contact with one another while they are riding in the engine or working to contain the fire. Being in close proximity puts them at greater risk of contracting the virus. That is another critical reason why we need the public to be vigilant about fire safety,” Kimbrell added.

Thank you for your understanding and support while we do our best to provide safe recreation opportunities during this unprecedented time.

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