

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Bluewater Lake State Park Hosts a Special Eclipse Viewing Program *Sunday May 20, 2012*

PREWITT, NM – Join New Mexico State Parks as we celebrate the first annular eclipse of the sun visible from our part of the world in 18 years! A special eclipse viewing program will be held at Bluewater Lake State Park beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, 2012. Visitors will enjoy safe views of this rare event through specially-filtered and projection screen telescopes for easy, hassle-free observing. Astronomers and rangers will be available to provide assistance and answer your questions.

An eclipse occurs when the moon passes in front of the sun. But because the **moon is a little farther away** than during a total solar eclipse, an annular eclipse blocks only the central portion of the solar disc creating a “ring of fire.” The deepest phase of eclipse will allow us to see the “ring of fire” for nearly 4 ½ minutes around 7:30 p.m. as the sun hangs low on the western horizon.

Bluewater Lake State Park’s location just south of eclipse centerline and the clear view across the lake to the western horizon makes it an ideal viewing spot. This combination of factors, along with New Mexico State Parks unbeatable value and family-friendly atmosphere makes this a must-see event.

The eclipse program is \$5 per vehicle or free with a New Mexico State Park annual pass. Bluewater Lake State Park is 28 miles west of Grants via I-40 and NM 412. For more information please call 505-876-2391.



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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.

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