

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## News Release

March 1, 2013

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### Fishing and Family Fun at Santa Rosa Lake and Sumner Lake State Parks

SANTA ROSA AND FORT SUMNER, NM – Come fish or paddle on the Pecos this spring at Santa Rosa and Sumner Lake State Parks. Grab a kayak or canoe and enjoy the beautiful scenery at Santa Rosa Lake State Park or enjoy your motor boat at Sumner Lake State Park.

“Conditions are right for great fishing at both of these lakes,” said Director Tommy Mutz. “Bring your family out to enjoy a beautiful spring day at a park on the plains of eastern New Mexico.”

**Santa Rosa Lake State Park** - Fishing at Santa Rosa Lake is starting to pick up along the banks of the lake, particularly for walleye and crappie, and will just get better as the weather warms up.

Santa Rosa Lake is open to paddle craft and canoes. Non-motorized recreation on this lake is a great way to see wildlife and to enjoy the rolling hills along the shore. “The low lake level has opened up several nice little coves up the canyon which are normally not visible and are only accessible by paddle craft,” said Park Manager Shank Cribbs.

Special events will be held at Santa Rosa Lake State Park throughout the summer and in the works are: an Outdoor Youth Challenge, a catfish tournament, horseshoe tournaments, and the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Fishing Clinic.

Santa Rosa Lake is located north of Santa Rosa, NM on NM Highway 91, and park staff can be reached at (575) 472-3110.

**Sumner Lake State Park** - At Sumner Lake State Park, the fishing is anticipated to pick up in March. “Walleye are currently being caught in the lake,” said Park Manager Ray Drake. “Trout are being caught below the dam.” Bird watching is also fun at the park and a variety of waterfowl and eagles have been spotted.

Sumner Lake State Park is currently open to boating. Although the park was closed briefly in 2011 due to suspected detection of invasive Quagga mussel larva, these species have not been found in Sumner Lake and the lake is safe for boating. However, always remember to Clean, Drain, and Dry your boat!

There will be special events in the spring and summer at Sumner Lake State Park as well. The Sumner Lake State Park *Open House* will be held on March 16, 2013. Also, the *Billy the Kid Tombstone Triathlon* will be held on June 8, 2013. Other events will include star parties, the *Poach Coach*, a health fair, and the annual *Youth Daze*, held on July 20, 2013.

Sumner Lake is located 16 miles north of Fort Sumner, NM via US Highway 64, and park staff can be contacted at (575) 355-2541.

State Park officials remind anglers to always wear a lifejacket when on a canoe, kayak, or raft and that all children 12 years old and younger must wear a lifejacket. The New Mexico State Parks Division offers FREE boating safety classes around the state and online throughout the year. For more information, call 888-NMPARKS or visit [nmparks.com](http://nmparks.com).

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