

State of New Mexico
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News Release

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Park Officials Announce Reduced Park Operations at Conchas Lake State Park

Santa Fe, NM – State Park officials announced today that park operations at Conchas Lake State Park will be relocated due to the impacts of severe drought. Conchas Lake is now at its lowest level since 1940. The lake level is well below the existing boat ramps and below the boundary of the State Park.

Consequently, the State Parks Division will focus the park activities at the North Recreation Area, which includes the North and Bell Point Campgrounds and the Conchas North Dock Concessionaire. The Cove and Central Recreation Areas, which include the State Parks boat ramps, will be closed until further notice to protect public health and safety.

“Given the current drought and economic conditions, we must evaluate our park operations to ensure that we are providing quality recreational opportunities for the public,” said Tommy Mutz, Division Director for New Mexico State Parks. “Circumstances have demanded that we protect park visitors from hazards associated with the near record low water levels while also being as fiscally responsible as possible.”

Unfortunately, the decreasing lake levels at Conchas Lake, and many other lakes around the state, has impacted recreation and presented challenges to land management agencies. State Park officials continue to improve boating access around the state parks system where engineering and costs are feasible. However, the resources and options for this type of work are limited because the drought is increasing the number and scale of these projects.

The Division will continue to support the United States Army Corps of Engineers as they continue to seek options to develop low water ramp access within their jurisdiction.

State Park and Corps officials will be hosting a town hall meeting on Monday June 17, 2013 at 6 PM at the Conchas Fire Station to provide information and respond to any questions regarding the status of the park.

For more information, call 888-NMPARKS or visit www.nmparks.com.