

MORPHY LAKE STATE PARK

Management and Development Plan

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Director's Approval: _____ Date: _____

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PREFACE

Each state park administered and managed by the State Parks Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department is required to establish a Management and Development Plan (PLAN). {Reference: Title 19 Chapter 5, Part 3 of the New Mexico Administrative Code: 19NMAC 5.3.} The objective of these plans is to provide direction for the management and development of the state parks in a manner that enhances recreational opportunities, protects park resources, provides for public input and protects the natural environment. In essence, each plan will identify an overall management philosophy and then outline a specific strategy for achieving management goals at the park, during a five-year period. {Reference: Section 13 of the State Parks Division's State Parks Policy and Procedures Manual}

The planning process for Park Management and Development Plans consists of: establishing a planning team for each state park, conducting an on-site inspection/assessment of the park, its resources and facilities, analyzing all information compiled on the park, proposing goals and related activities to be completed over the next five years, developing a draft PLAN for the park, soliciting public input on the draft PLAN and revising it as appropriate, approval of the revised PLAN by the State Park Division Director, and implementation of the approved PLAN by the Park Manager/Superintendent.

Any and all comments or recommendations concerning the Morphy Lake State Park Management and Development Plan should be directed to:

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. INTRODUCTION

The mission of the New Mexico State Parks Division is to manage the state park system to enrich the lives of New Mexicans and visitors to the state. At Morphy Lake State Park (MLSP), this mission is fulfilled through the protection and enhancement of the park's natural resources; and by providing an appealing setting for use of the mountainous region and its lake ecosystem for camping, trout fishing and a variety of family related gatherings. Our overall goal is to continue offering a high quality service in a safe and efficient manner, while making improvements to broaden the recreational, educational and cultural experience for our visitors. This plan sets forth the specific objectives, policies, improvements and changes we will strive to implement through fiscal years 2002-2006 in order to achieve our goals and fulfill the Division's mission.

B. SUMMARY of PROPOSED ACTIONS and POLICIES

1. PROPOSED ACTIONS

Tables 1-5 provide a detailed list of the proposed actions for the FY 02-FY 06 planning period. The purpose of this management plan is to establish the overall direction of visitor and resource management at MLSP. The plan should be used as the basis for ongoing, day-to-day management decisions and actions and long-term capital improvements. The plan translates agency policy into courses of action necessary for achieving and maintaining the desired resource conditions and program direction at MLSP. It is intended to be a working/living document for continuous use and updating by the parks' staff.

**TABLE 1
Action Plan Overview
FISCAL YEAR 2002**

GOAL	PRIORITY	TASK	TIME FRAME (FY)	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$)	FUNDING SOURCES	PAGE #
Develop and Maintain Facilities	1	Purchase and install portable equipment building	02	3,500	CIP	19
	2	Purchase John Deere Gator with utility trailer	02	10,000	CIP	20
Education and Interpretation	3	Interpretive Signs: Pilot Project	02	1,000	CIP	18
Resource Protection	4	Install timbers around vault toilets	02	2,000	AOB	20-21
		TOTAL (FY) PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		\$16,500		

Funding Source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget-Park Division); **BOAT** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Boat Fuel Tax/ Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital improvements program-Parks Division); **DJ** (Dingell-Johnson: N.M. Department of Game and Fish); **TRAILS** (Federal Highway Funds); **INM** (Inmate Parks); **IWC** (Inmate Work Camp Program); **PVT** (Private Sector or Volunteer/Friends Groups); **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps); **RV** Electric (RV); **LWCF** (Land and Water Conservation Fund)

TABLE 2
Action Plan Overview
FISCAL YEAR 2003

GOAL	PRIORITY	TASK	TIME FRAME (FY)	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$)	FUNDING SOURCES	PAGE #
Develop and Maintain Facilities	2	Develop camp host site with electric and sewer	03	10,000	CIP	23
	1	Renovate roadways and campsite pads w/gravel and base coarse	03	5,000	CIP	20
Resource Protection	3	Renovate Park boundary fence and install perimeter signs	03	15,000	CIP	21
	4	Initiate Resource Survey	03	In-kind	AOB	17
		TOTAL (FY) PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		\$30,000		

Funding Source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget-Park Division); **BOAT** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Boat Fuel Tax/ Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital improvements program-Parks Division); **DJ** (Dingell-Johnson: N.M. Department of Game and Fish); **TRAILS** (Federal Highway Funds); **INM** (Inmate Parks); **IWC** (Inmate Work Camp Program); **PVT** (Private Sector or Volunteer/Friends Groups); **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps); **RV** Electric (RV); **LWCF** (Land and Water Conservation Fund)

**TABLE 3
Action Plan Overview
FISCAL YEAR 2004**

GOAL	PRIORITY	TASK	TIME FRAME (FY)	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$)	FUNDING SOURCES	PAGE #
Develop and Maintain Facilities	2	Develop walk in tent camping sites w/ table and grills	04	5,000	CIP	19
Education and Interpretation	1	Develop Interpretive Master Plan	04	In House	AOB	17
		TOTAL (FY) PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		\$5,000		

Funding Source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget-Park Division); **BOAT** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Boat Fuel Tax/ Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital improvements program-Parks Division); **DJ** (Dingell-Johnson: N.M. Department of Game and Fish); Trails (Federal Highway Funds); **INM** (Inmate Parks); **IWC** (Inmate Work Camp Program); **PVT** (Private Sector or Volunteer/Friends Groups); **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps); **RV** Electric (RV); **LWCF** (Land and Water Conservation Fund)

**TABLE 4
Action Plan Overview
FISCAL YEAR 2005**

GOAL	PRIORITY	TASK	TIME FRAME (FY)	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$)	FUNDING SOURCES	PAGE #
Develop and maintain Facilities	3	Implement outdoor seating along trails and activity centers	05	\$7,000	YCC	19
Education and Interpretation	1	Construct walk bridge across inlet stream and park trail work	05	\$7,000	YCC	18
	2	Phase II – Interpretive Signs	05	\$5,000	CIP	18
		TOTAL (FY) PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		\$19,000		

Funding Source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget-Park Division); **BOAT** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Boat Fuel Tax/ Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital improvements program-Parks Division); **DJ** (Dingell-Johnson: N.M. Department of Game and Fish); **TRAILS** (Federal Highway Funds); **INM** (Inmate Parks); **IWC** (Inmate Work Camp Program); **PVT** (Private Sector or Volunteer/Friends Groups); **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps); **RV** Electric (RV); **LWCF** (Land and Water Conservation Fund)

TABLE 5
Action Plan Overview
FISCAL YEAR 2006

GOAL	PRIORITY	TASK	TIME FRAME (FY)	ESTIMATED COSTS (\$)	FUNDING SOURCES	PAGE #
Develop and maintain Facilities	2	Renovate road ways and campsite pads w/gravel and base coarse	06	5,000	CIP	20
Develop and Maintain Facilities/ Public Safety	1	Develop water system and provide portable water for visitors	06	10,000	CIP	21
		TOTAL (FY) PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		\$15,000		

Funding Source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget-Park Division); **BOAT** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Boat Fuel Tax/ Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **DJ** (Dingell-Johnson: N.M. Department of Game and Fish); **TRAILS** (Federal Highway Funds); **NM** (Inmate Parks); **IWC** (Inmate Work Camp Program); **PVT** (Private Sector or Volunteer/Friends Groups); **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps); **RV** (RV Electric); **LWCF** (Land and Water Conservation Fund)

2. POLICY DIRECTIVES

The policy directives summarized below have been developed to support and carry out the overall mission of MLSP during the planning period:

- 1) During periods of high water levels or poor weather conditions, the road access to the lake may be subject to closure.
- 2) At this time there are no concessions established within the park. Services are easily provided outside of the park and are not needed within the park.
- 3) Recreational boating is only allowed with electric motors or oars.
- 4) Riding or use of horses or ATV's is prohibited.
- 5) Seasonal closure of Morphy Lake is established from November 1 through April 1.

II. PARK DESCRIPTION

A. BACKGROUND

MLSP is one of the least accessible of New Mexico's state parks. The lake can be reached via paved road NM 94, either south from Mora, or northwest from Sapello to the village of Ledoux. From Ledoux, an unimproved road continues west for 2.25 miles up the south side of the valley of Rito Morphy. At this point take the right fork and continue north across the Rito Morphy and up a steep switchback to Morphy Lake.

Morphy Lake was established to serve as a water reservoir for providing irrigation for the residents of Ledoux, New Mexico. In 1965, the lake was leased to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for recreational fishing. The New Mexico State Parks Division assumed management of the lake under a lease agreement with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. This agreement allowed the lake to be developed into a state park in 1965. Since its establishment the lake and surrounding area have proved ideal for recreation, due to the lake ecosystem and the surrounding mountains.

B. KEY FEATURES

Morphy Lake, also known as Murphy Lake by locals, occupies a small natural basin on the east slope of the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains. The altitude of the lake is approximately 8,000 feet above sea level. To the west toward the lake watershed, the skyline ridge topples nearly 12,000 feet in elevation. The lake water levels are naturally recharged from annual precipitation and seasonal runoff from snow melting within the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

The lake still provides irrigation for farming and ranching within the community of Ledoux.

The primary recreational activities at MLSP are boating, (electric motors and/or oars only), fishing, hiking, camping and picnicking. The park is open seasonally from April 1st through November 1st. During winter months, adverse weather conditions prompt the closure of the park in order to eliminate damage to roads and insure public safety. Winter conditions cause road access in and around Morphy Lake to be dangerous. The park has a hiking trail that encircles the lake and boasts a wide variety of wildlife including, deer, elk, bear, turkeys, coyotes, muskrat, squirrels and chipmunks.

The primary attraction to the lake is the incredible trout fishing. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish stocks the lake regularly with rainbow trout. In addition, the natural stream flowing into the lake allows for recruitment of other game fish like the Rio Grande Cutthroat trout and the brown trout. Fish measuring up to 23 inches and weighing several pounds have been caught at the lake, although the average length of most fish caught ranges between 8-14 inches.

III. VISITATION and REVENUE

A. VISITATION

**TABLE 6
ANNUAL VISITATION**

FY	Visitation
2001	25,398
2000	16,283
1999	11,511
1998	45,998
1997	20,796
TOTAL	\$119,986

To accurately determine visitor use trends, patterns, and interests, a formal survey of visitors has been conducted. Currently, one visitation counter is located at the only entrance and exit from the park. The majority of visitors to the park, both in-state and out-of-state, select Morphy Lake as one of their vacation destinations. The park draws fishermen, campers, and picnickers from the local areas who bring their families for a day or weekend at the park. The annual precipitation and water level of the lake affect visitation. In addition, visitation greatly decreases during dry seasons when fire severity is high or when wet weather causes roads to be slick. Morphy Lake receives the most visitation in the spring and summer months of (May through September), with a sharp drop-off in the fall and closure in the winter. The Fourth of July is the single busiest day of the year, with heavy visitation also occurring on the Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

B. REVENUE

**TABLE 7
ANNUAL SELF GENERATED RECEIPTS**

FY	Self-Generated Receipts
2001	\$10,602
2000	\$16,433
1999	\$7,287
1998	\$12,376.64
1997	\$11,023.93
TOTAL	\$57,722.57

MLSP generates an average of \$11,544.51 annually. The main source of revenue is self-generated fees, which include day-use, camping, special use permits, and group shelter fees. Park fees are collected at one self pay station or by staff field collection. Day use activities are the highest attraction to MLSP, especially when fishing is good and weather conditions are favorable.

IV. EXISTING OPERATIONS/FACILITIES and PROPOSED ACTIONS

The following sections provide a brief summary of all aspects of the park. Details are provided on any proposed actions or changes in management policies for the plan period.

A. OPERATIONS and MANAGEMENT

Lands/Realty

House Joint Memorial 13, passed during the twenty-fifth legislature in 1961 directed the State Park Commission to acquire Morphy Lake as a state park. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, leased Morphy Lake in February 1965 for a term of 25 years. The lake and property were established as a state park through a secondary lease agreement between the State Parks Division and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish on June 16, 1966. The management of the lake was then transferred over to the control and discretion of the State Parks Division. The Ledoux Water Association is the outright owner of the lake and property. In 1990, the agreement was renewed for an additional 25 years. The agreement allows for the following:

- 1) the State has full use of the community lands surrounding Morphy Lake for public recreation and access. There is to be no commercial development on said lands;

- 2) the Ledoux Water Association maintains and retains rights to the property for accessing the irrigation outlet area and possesses the authority to use water via the outlet dam at their discretion.

The only other agreement concerning Morphy Lake is the easement between the State of New Mexico and the adjacent landowners. This easement provides a right of way for public access and use of the road west from the community of Ledoux to Morphy Lake. Please reference Appendix B-1 for a detailed map of Morphy Lake and its location.

Hours of Operation

MLSP is open on a 24-hour basis from April 1st through November 1st. During the winter months of November through March, Morphy Lake is closed to all access and use.

Maintenance

Employees will perform maintenance required as per Section 11, Parks Policy and Procedures Manual and Parks Standards of Use and Care Manual.

Emergencies

All emergencies will be handled in accordance with Section 5, Parks Policy and Procedures Manual.

Regional Support Resources

The Region 2 administrative office is located in Tucumcari, New Mexico. A Regional Manager, Administrator 2, Plant Operations Specialist, Vehicle Mechanic 3, and a roving Marine Enforcement Officer support the parks in the region. The regional office provides administrative support for the park.

B. NATURAL RESOURCES

Environment

MLSP is located 7 miles southwest of Mora off of State Road 94. Situated in the eastern foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, the park is at an altitude of 8,000 feet. The average annual temperature is about 46 degrees Fahrenheit; the average annual precipitation is about 18 inches. During the summer, daytime temperatures rarely reach 80 degrees. Winters can be quite severe, with high snow levels and temperatures falling well below zero, causing seasonal closure of the park.

Geologic Resources

Uplift of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains began at about the close of the Mesozoic Era. Erosion has stripped away much of the younger sediments that once covered the present site of the mountains, exposing the old Precambrian rocks seen between Mora and Ledoux and also under the high ridge west of Morphy Lake. Laboratory dating of the granite south of Ledoux indicates that the mountains

formed 1.4 billion years ago. The schists and quartzites exposed near Mora are older than the granite, but unfortunately their radioactive “clocks” were reset when they were intruded and metamorphosed by the granite.

The general uplift of the present Sangre de Cristo Mountains resulted in folding and faulting of the sediments that once covered the area. Remnants of Mississippian and Pennsylvanian rocks are preserved in the range. The younger rocks that eroded from the mountains are beneath the plains to the east and can be seen best between Las Vegas and Mora where they were turned up on end and now form the hogbacks flanking the east side of the Rocky Mountains.

Looking west from Morphy Lake, the highest point is Cebolla Mountain at 11,870 feet. North of this peak several small, bowl-shaped or amphitheatre-like reentrants occur in the ridge of Precambrian rocks, these features were formed by small mountain glaciers that developed on the east side of the ridge more than 10,000 years ago during Pleistocene time. The fronts of the glaciers advanced downward only a short way to an altitude of approximately 10,000 feet. The bowl shaped reentrants, are called *cirques*. The glaciers plucked out the bottoms leaving behind depressions in the rock now occupied by small lakes known as *tarns*.

Vegetation

The native plant communities are typical of the southern Rocky Mountains. Predominantly, the park consists of intermediate to high elevation vegetation. On the south side of the lake, the shoreline interfaces with a mixed conifer forest consisting of a Gambels oak under-story and a mixture of timber consisting of Douglas fir, blue spruce, Englemann spruce, white fir and ponderosa pine. Ponderosa pine vegetation is the dominant component occurring throughout the park. On the east and north sides, the shoreline interfaces with a predominantly savannah type Ponderosa pine forest, with little under-story and sparse vegetation. On the west side perimeter, vegetation does not remain consistent with the ponderosa pine forest. The adjacent inlet stream provides a lush riparian corridor, with a wet meadow on its southern side. Currently measures are being identified for forest practices conducive for reducing fire severity while increasing the biological diversity of flora and fauna occurring within the dominantly Ponderosa pine savannah forest encircling Morphy Lake.

Wildlife

The wildlife at Morphy Lake is typical of the Rocky Mountains. The variety of birds, fish, and other common mammals, inhabiting within the park provide a diverse palette for visitors to the park. Some of the mammals seen regularly in and around the park are ground squirrel, chipmunk, muskrat, rabbit, porcupine, skunk, raccoon, coyote, bobcat, mule deer, mountain lion, elk, and black bear.

In addition, the bird list established for the park consists of mountain and western bluebirds, belted kingfisher, band-tailed pigeon, lesser and common nighthawks, black chinned/rufous/ broad tailed/calliope hummingbirds, red shafted flicker,

violet-green swallow, common raven, American crow, American robin, solitary and warbling vireos, yellow warbler, red-winged and brewer's blackbirds, common grackle, western tanager, black-backed and American goldfinch, spotted and brown towhee, pinon and Stellar jays, bank/barn/song sparrows, cave/barn swallows, evening and black-headed grosbeak, barn and great-horned owls, osprey, turkey vultures, greater heron, red tailed hawk, sparrow hawk, golden and bald eagles.

Recreational wildlife species available for our visitors to sportingly experience, consist of fish species such as rainbow trout, brown trout, Rio Grande Cutthroat trout, and carp.

Resource Protection

The natural resources of the park are limited, and in some cases will not regenerate easily. In order to maintain an attractive, viable park environment, visitation and illegitimate uses will have to be closely monitored and controlled. Special attention needs to be placed on restricting recreation within designated sites, controlling non-designated vehicular use, unauthorized damage or removal of trees, and reducing potential pollution of surface water. The development of an interpretive master plan in FY 04 will provide a detailed system for using resources for education and enrichment while sustaining and conserving the resource for future availability.

C. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural Resource Management

Cultural resources within the park boundaries are subject to state cultural resource protection laws (see Appendix E). Development within the park will be coordinated with the State Park Archaeologist to avoid impact to significant cultural resources. State Park personnel will work to preserve and protect cultural resources from negative impacts from the public or environmental factors.

Cultural Resource Inventory

Previous research at MLSP has been very minimal, limited primarily to some of the existing roads and recreation sites. A full-scale archaeological survey is needed to determine if cultural resources exist in the area. Inventory of natural and cultural resources will begin in FY 03 using in-house personnel and AOB funding.

Archaeological Sites

There is potential for a wide range of archaeological sites at this park. The earliest archaeological sites in the area date to the Paleoindian period (B.C. 9500-B.C. 5500). These mobile hunters and gatherers relied upon the large game of the period, including mammoth and bison. Archaic period archaeological sites (B.C. 5500-200 A.D.) may also be present. Archaic people were also hunters and gatherers, living in campsites, hunting game and gathering native plants.

The Formative period was characterized by pithouse and room block settlements where both dry land and flood-land agriculture were practiced. Artifacts of this period consist of projectile points, groundstone and ceramics, which make an appearance in the record as early as A.D. 200. Formative period sites in the vicinity of the Morphy Lake area are generally related to the Ancestral Puebloan, Pecos classification. A Pueblo II residence dating from A.D. 900-1100 was documented near the State Park (Acklen 1991). Historic Native American use of this area is often attributed to the Plains tribes, such as the Comanche, as well as the Apache. These groups were very mobile and would settle temporarily from place to place.

The earliest documented use of the area surrounding Morphy Lake was at the end of the 18th century, when Spanish settlers were living on the frontier of Mora County. By 1835, a land grant was created for these settlers who were given an extensive area from Mora to Wagon Mound to inhabit. These Spanish settlers were farmers and ranchers, and by 1860 Mora County was formed with the town of Mora as the county seat.

A series of other small towns were formed in this area, such as Ledoux, located 4 miles east of Morphy Lake. This village was named for a French fur trapper and was established at the turn of the century. During the historic period, a series of extensive acequias were established in this region to provide irrigation water to the many fields in the area.

D. EDUCATION and INTERPRETATION

Education and interpretation goals for the park include several activities in the planning period. Currently, specific areas have been identified and proposed for interpretive signs during FY 02 with an estimated cost of \$1,000 of CIP fund. This would be the initial implementation of interpretive resources within the park. An in-house Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) should be developed in FY 04 from the AOB. With the development of the IMP, designation of future interpretive projects would play a critical role in visitor management as well as resource interpretation and education. The second stage of outdoor interpretive signs is scheduled for FY 05 using \$5,000 of CIP funds. In FY 05 with an estimated \$7,000 of YCC funds, the construction of a walk bridge work at the west end of the park directly within the riparian ecosystem along the trail encircling the lake, will provide a safe crossing for visitors as well as provide interpretational opportunities. In the interim, park staff will continue to implement campfire talks, career day, outdoor classrooms and other similar special events in cooperation with the regional interpreter and Santa Fe office interpretation staff.

E. FACILITIES/STRUCTURES

Campgrounds

Please reference Appendix A for a detailed list of facilities.

Concessions

There are no concessions operating at the park and no operations are anticipated within the planning period.

Recreation

Carrying capacity of a state park plays a crucial roll in the effective management of a park and its resources. With increasing popularity and linear increase in visitation, it is important to identify and make use of undeveloped areas of the park sustaining the natural resource. The development of five walk-in tent camping sites with tables and grills in areas prohibited to vehicle travel will provide visitor with another camping option. This work will be accomplished in FY 04 at an estimated cost of \$5,000 from CIP funds. This development will allow visitors to be distributed evenly throughout the park. The even distribution of visitors, will allow an easily monitored carrying capacity that can be efficiently maintained by park staff.

As the park system cultivates educational and interpretive programs, it has become increasingly important for our parks to provide recreational equipment. While visitors are enjoying our interpretive trails, exhibits, and informational signs, it has become evident that benches and/or seats should be available for visitors to rest, relax and enjoy the atmosphere provided by the park environment. In FY 05 another component of the YCC project, is the purchase of benches, seats, and/or stools to be installed along activity centers, interpretive attractions, trail resting points and along scenic look out points at a cost of \$7,000. With the installation of recreational seating, the attributes and amenities provided by the park will be experienced and enjoyed thoroughly and comfortably.

Administration/Staff

The purchase and installation of a portable equipment building in FY 02, at a cost of \$3,500 from CIP funding, will eliminate dependence on Coyote Creek State Park for equipment. Currently, all equipment and vehicles must be stored at Coyote Creek. The seasonal worker assigned to the lake must work out of his personal vehicle and wait for extra supplies and/or equipment to be transported from Coyote Creek daily. The installation of a building providing storage, a shop and an office area would increase efficiency and logistics for the management of the lake.

F. EQUIPMENT

Communications

The parks communications system is comprised of one state cellular phone, four hand-held radios, and three vehicle radio units. Capabilities within the office consist of a direct state telephone line; direct state fax line and direct Internet access line.

Park personnel are equipped with standard radio communication equipment, which includes hand-held/vehicle radios with Division as well as other law enforcement agency frequencies. Camp host volunteers are equipped with a hand-held radio for visitor assistance and emergencies. Volunteers are also instructed in the correct and responsible use of hand-held radios.

Field

Please reference Appendix C for a detailed list of field equipment.

Office

Please reference Appendix C for a detailed list of office equipment.

Vehicles/ Heavy Equipment/Boats

Due to the size of staff at the park and the distance between the parks managed by this office, all vehicles are used in routine maintenance, administration and law enforcement functions at the park. Vehicle and boat maintenance and replacement are on a regular standardized cycle established by policy. Please reference Appendix C-1 for a complete list of vehicles and boats.

In addition, in FY 02 the purchase of a John Deere Gator with a utility trailer at an estimated cost of \$10,000 will play an essential role in the effective operations and maintenance of the lake. With the addition of a portable shop/equipment building and storage area in FY 02, we will then have the option of storing this required equipment within the park. This will allow Division equipment to be accessible for required daily operations and maintenance.

G. TRANSPORTATION and ACCESS

Road/Parking

The roads within the park are designed to provide access to the park areas with minimal impact to the natural landscape. Several roads have been removed in the past years to eliminate erosion of the natural landscape. The location of the park poses adverse weather conditions annually. In FY 03 and FY 06 with \$5,000 of CIP funds each year, the roads and campsite pads will be resurfaced with base coarse and gravel. Roadways within the park are vulnerable to degradation and erosion. Adhering to a strict maintenance and rehabilitation schedule for road repair and surfacing is essential to provide a safely accessible recreational area. In FY 02 with \$2,000 of AOB funds, timbers for vault protection and delineation

will be installed around all vault toilet facilities. The delineation of each vault will protect the sidewalks and structures from vehicle damage while providing an established walk aisle for each restroom.

In order to protect the park boundary and keep livestock and unauthorized ATV's out, the perimeter fence will be renovated in FY 03. This project will cost \$15,000. The funds will come from CIP. The park boundary and fenced perimeter will be renovated utilizing a fencing contract. With the renovation of the fence perimeter, the park will be ensured that trespassing of livestock as well as illegitimate use by ATV's and vehicles are eliminated. The aesthetics of a renovated perimeter also provides a pleasing environment for visitors, while maintaining a physical descriptor of the land owned by the Ledoux Water Association and managed by the Division.

H. UTILITIES

Water Systems

Since the establishment of MLSP, there have been no utilities provided within the campground. It is important in this planning period to develop utilities for the public and park employees. A common visitor complaint is the lack of potable water within the park. In FY 06 a water well will be drilled and developed with \$10,000 of CIP funds. A central water collection site can be easily maintained and would allow people to stay longer and use fresh water for a variety of purposes. In addition, park staff would have a water collection area other than the stream and the lake for cleaning and recharging vault toilets. At the present time, staff must collect water by manually scooping or pumping it from the lake or stream. It is unrealistic to propose that a water system be distributed throughout the park, due to the dominantly rugged and impermeable topography.

Wastewater Systems

Morphy Lake has five vault toilets that are serviced twice a year and inspected daily by park employees.

Solid Waste

Morphy Lake is a pack it in-pack it out recreational area. The primary solid waste components collected by park staff are litter and ash, which are cleaned daily and transported to the county treatment facility.

V. BUDGET and STAFFING

A. CURRENT BUDGET

The approved annual operating budgets and expenditures for MLSP for the past five fiscal years are listed in the table below. The Division allocates these budgets to be utilized to cover annual operating costs.

TABLE 8
Morphy Lake State Park
Expenditures (FY 97 thru FY 01)

Fiscal Year (FY)	FY Expenditures	FY Allotted Budget
2001	14,423	31,662
2000	33,292	33,771
1999	34,303	39,997
1998	57,338	57,346
1997	No Record	No Record
Totals	139,356	162,776

B. STAFFING and VOLUNTEERS

Staffing/Positions

All members of the Morphy Lake staff are responsible for the various duties involved in efficient operation of the park. Both MLSP and Coyote Creek State Park are run by the same staff, out of the office in Coyote Creek. One seasonal laborer and Ranger II are assigned to the lake, but all staff, have active roles in the management of both state parks. Because of the small permanent staff, all members must be familiar with the operation and maintenance of MLSP. Please reference Appendix D for a chart of the park staff organization.

Park Manager-Supervises the overall operation of Coyote Creek. The manager is responsible for all administrative, personnel, fiscal, law enforcement, maintenance, and park projects. He serves as the primary liaison to other agencies and to local communities.

Park Ranger II-Works primarily on visitor services, maintenance and law enforcement duties throughout the year. The Ranger II supervises volunteers, seasonals, and YCC groups and performs administrative functions. This staff member supervises the operation of the park in the absence of the park manager.

Park Ranger II- (Interpretive) – This position is based at Sugarite Canyon State Park in Raton. The position serves all parks in Region 2, including MLSP. This person has the primary responsibility to coordinate interpretive and educational activities and materials within the region, coordinating with staff at each park as necessary and appropriate.

Staff Development and Training

Park employees attend required training established by the Division. Training that is beneficial for the staff in carrying out job duties or increasing upward mobility is also strongly encouraged. Every effort will be made to accommodate employee requests to attend non-required training.

Volunteer Program

Morphy Lake has struggled to place campground host volunteers in the last few years. The season for a volunteer program at the lake is during the warmer months (May-September). It is difficult to recruit host volunteers because there are no utilities or amenities provided. With the development of electric and sewer capabilities within the camp host site during FY 03 with \$10,000 of CIP funds, we would then provide a safer more attractive offer to people interested in volunteering at the lake. The camp host assists the park staff 24 hours per week. In the absence of park staff, the volunteers are essential for helping to operate the park.

Other Programs (YCC, WIA, Etc.)

The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) has completed some worthwhile projects at Morphy Lake. They have been actively used in the past three years via the Mora Independent School system and their assigned crew. Morphy Lake now has staff ready to supervise and educate a YCC group and plans to re-implement the YCC work group in the near future. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) formerly the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) has been used annually and has proven to be a wonderful addition to our staff capabilities.

Friends Group

In 1985, a group of volunteers united and the “Friends of Coyote Creek” was established. This group is very active in the activities and management of Morphy Lake. Our Friends have been instrumental in raising money for a variety of projects, equipment, programs, and often offer input for future park developments. The Friends of Coyote Creek and Morphy Lake State Park will continue to support both state parks in future years.

Morphy Lake State Park
Appendix A
List of Park Facilities

Existing Facilities:

The primary facilities at MLSP include the following:

- 1- Self Pay Station (Solar Lighting)
- 22- Campsites (Primitive w / tables and grills)
- 23- Ground Fire/Grill Rings
- 23- Picnic Tables
 - 1- Camp Host Site
 - 1- Day use table
 - 1- Boat Ramp
 - 5- Single vault toilets
 - 1- Hiking Trail

NOTE: This inventory does not include the non-designated sites for camping in non-developed areas.

Morphy Lake State Park
Appendix B
Map of Morphy Lake State Park

**Morphy Lake State Park
Appendix B-1
Map of Region II**

Morphy Lake State Park

Appendix C

List of Small Equipment

Tools and Small Equipment (items \$200.00 to \$1,000.00)

SHOP TOOLS

Table Saw	SEARS	113.226682	91240P0148
Wet and dry vacuum	Craftsman		
5" table grinder	Skil	3395	37J2
Jigsaw	Bosch	B4100	46601290
10 amp battery charger	Marquette	30-140	60381
Belt Sander	Craftsman	31511721	A43c8
Belt Sander	MAKITA	9900B	447248E
Skil Saw	SKIL	77	Hc-900751
Hand Grinder	Dewalt	DW402	282415
12.0 V Cordless Drill	Craftsman	973271960	G9625
Cordless Drill	Milwaukee	0415-02	887A599130564
D1000 Drill	Black and Decker		9410-F
Power Hand Drill	Dewalt	DW142	4292
Cut-off Machine	RYOBI	C-356 TYPE II	709289618
Air compressor	Dayton Speedaire	5S1408	042893L827439
Pressure washer	HOTSY	B3035H	C46165
Coleman Portable Generator	Coleman	PM052530.03	81320774
Posthole Auger	JOHN DEERE	OMM113388	M0031BX130564
250 v Electric Welder	Miller	902031	JG041390
Portable welder	Miller		

GROUND TOOLS

Weed Eater	STIHL	FS 106	19604827
Weed Eater	STIHL	FS 108	32522671
Weed Eater	STIHL	FS 085	525320002
Weed Eater	STIHL	FS 085	525319911
Weed Eater	STIHL	FS 120	161
Chain Saw	Stihl	034AV	
Chain Saw	Stihl	36	52534
Chain Saw	Poulan	3400	35374001
Self Propelled 3 Speed Lawn Mower	SARLO	28B702	1147-E1
Walk behind Lawn Mower	NOMA	N/A	E2250-020
Portable welder	Miller		JC612139

OFFICE TOOLS

Laser Jet Printer	Hewlett packard	C3990A	JPHL009800
Desk-top Copier	Konica	1290 RE	490225144
Fax Machine	Sharp	F0-1460	13611
Type Writer	IBM	6784	14331000139907

COMMUNICATIONS

Hand Radio	I-COM	IC-F3S-2	65733
Hand Radio	I-COM	IC-F3OLT-2	33912
Hand Radio	I-COM	IC-F3OLT-2	30063
Hand Radio	I-COM	IC-F3OLT-2	30052
Hand Radio	Standard	HX 400	79U180193

**Morphy Lake State Park
Appendix C-1
List of Large Equipment**

QUANTITY: ITEM:

Vehicles:

- (1) **1993 Dodge 4x4 PU Truck**
- (1) **1993 Ford Ranger PU Truck**
- (1) **2001 Dodge 4x4 PU Truck**
- (1) **2000 John Deere Gator ATV w/ Utility Trailer**

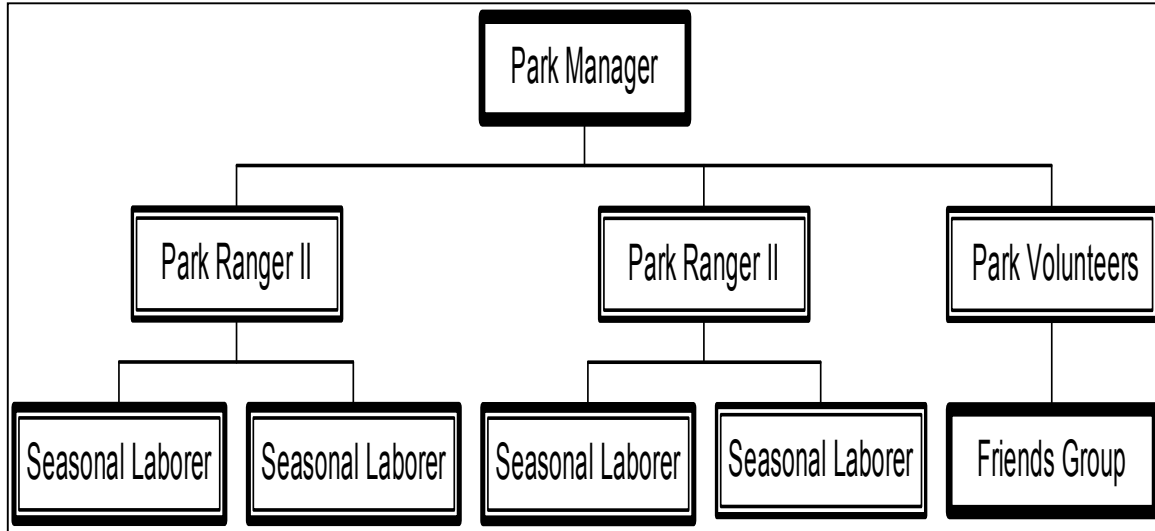
Heavy Equipment:

- (1) **Utility Trailer**
- (1) **John Deere Tractor w/ Front Loader**
- (1) **John Deere Rear Mower**
- (1) **John Deere Augger**
- (1) **Ford Backhoe**

Boat:

- (1) **16' Smokercraft John Boat**

**Morphy Lake State Park
Appendix D
Staff Organizational Chart**



Cultural Resource Protection Laws

Appendix E

The following cultural resource protection laws are applicable to MLSP. Each law has a bearing on the management of the park.

Federal

Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 USC 3001). This act protects Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. It prohibits the sale, purchase, use or transport for sale or profit, the human remains of a Native American. The law outlines the procedures in the event of an inadvertent discovery of a Native American burial site as well as the relinquishment of control of such items to the appropriate Native American groups.

National Register of Historic Places, 36 CFR, Part 60. This is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. These properties must have historic significance and integrity and must meet at least one of the following criteria: association with significant events; association with important persons; distinctive design or physical characteristics; or potential to yield information important in history or prehistory.

State

New Mexico Cultural Properties Act (NMSA 1978 §18-6-1 to 18-6-17). This act recognizes that the historical and cultural heritage of the state as one of the state's most valued and important assets. It indicates that the neglect, desecration and destruction of historical and cultural sites, structures, places and objects results in an irreplaceable loss to the public. It establishes the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (HPD) to maintain the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties (similar to the National Register) and to review of state projects to determine effect upon significant historic properties. This law prohibits unauthorized excavation, injury or damage to cultural properties located on state land. It requires excavation and burial permits and assesses criminal and/or civil penalties for unlawful excavation of cultural properties or burial site. Finally, this law requires that site location remain confidential.

New Mexico Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act (NMSA 1978 §18-8-1 to 18-8-8). This law states that no public funds of the state shall be spent on any program that requires the use of any portion of land from a significant prehistoric or historic site unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative and unless the project includes all possible planning to preserve and protect the cultural property.

New Mexico Cultural Properties Protection Act (NMSA 1993 § 18-16A-1 to 18-6A-6). This law requires state agencies to establish a system of professional surveys of cultural properties on state lands. State agencies are required to cooperate with the

Historic Preservation Division to ensure that cultural properties are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed.