

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

Ken McQueen
Cabinet Secretary

Matthias Sayer
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Christy Tafoya, Division Director
State Parks Division



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2017

Contact: Christina Cordova, 505-476-3363; E-mail: christina.cordova@state.nm.us
Beth Wojahn 505-476-3226; E-mail: beth.wojahn@state.nm.us

State Parks Issues Notice of Blue-Green Algae at Elephant Butte Lake State Park *Precaution is Advised in Three Sisters Cove Area*

Elephant Butte, NM – New Mexico State Parks has issued a notice for the presence of Blue-Green Algae at Three Sisters Cove, a small area within Elephant Butte Lake State Park. State Parks is advising visitors who recreate at Three Sisters Cove of possible health risks associated with exposure to blue-green algae – a naturally occurring organism in lakes that can produce toxins but is short lived. As a precaution, State Parks is posting notices at Elephant Butte Lake State Park and distributing flyers to visitors. Please note that this is currently a small area and it will be posted clearly for visitors.

Blue-green algae can form anytime, particularly in the summer or early fall when conditions include the presence of warm, shallow, nutrient rich water that receives a lot of sunlight. Most blue-green algae are safe; however, people should be aware that toxic conditions can exist and should limit their contact with blue-green algae as much as possible. Seek medical attention immediately if you think you, your child, or your pet might have been exposed.

To guard against exposure, consider the following precautions:

- When boating, water skiing or swimming, don't come in contact with water that is discolored or where excessive foam, scum, or mats of algae on the water are visible
- Avoid swimming in areas with large quantities of algae
- Shower or rinse off with clean water after swimming and prior to food preparation and eating
- Rinse pets off with clean water instead of allowing pets to groom themselves
- Bring clean water for pets and keep them away from the lake
- Never drink untreated surface water, whether or not algae blooms are present
- Seek immediate medical attention if symptoms occur after possible exposure

For more information on YOUR New Mexico State Parks, please visit our website at www.nmparks.com or call 1-888-nmparks.



Blue-Green Algae spotted in this area of Three Sisters Cove, Elephant Butte Lake State Park

Conditions are Right for Adventure at New Mexico State Parks!



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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.

1220 South St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone (505) 476-3355 • Fax (505) 476-3361 • www.nmparks.com