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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2015

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Management of Damsite and Paseo del Rio Recreation Areas Transition from Elephant Butte Lake State Park to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Elephant Butte, NM – The Damsite and Paseo del Rio Recreation Areas at Elephant Butte Lake are no longer under the management of New Mexico State Parks and are fully managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. As of last month, Reclamation is the owner of the property and will maintain the area and keep it open to the public without interrupting services until a long-term option is achieved.

In a new statewide lease agreement under negotiation between the BOR and State Parks, the two agencies came to an agreement that the Damsite and Paseo del Rio Recreation Areas and remote, undeveloped areas of Elephant Butte Lake and Caballo Lake State Parks would also be removed from the Elephant Butte Lake and Caballo Lake State Parks lease.

State Parks and Reclamation presented this proposal to the public on October 22, 2014 at Elephant Butte, NM. A total of 90 community members attended. During this meeting, the transition strategy was explained and comments from the public were recorded.

“We are committed to providing quality recreational experiences at Elephant Butte Lake and Caballo Lake State Parks,” said State Park Director Tommy Mutz. “By reducing the State Park footprint at Damsite, Paseo del Rio and the remote areas, we’ll be able to reallocate resources in order to provide continued excellent service to the public.”

Reclamation has entered into an agreement with the existing concessionaire, Lago Rico, Inc. which operates the Damsite restaurant, cabins, bed and breakfast, and full service marina. The concession will continue to operate, and the campground at Paseo del Rio will be added to Lago Rico, Inc.’s area of responsibility.

“Reclamation will ensure that the Damsite and Paseo del Rio Recreation Areas continue to operate and provide the services that the public expects,” said Acting Area Manager Ken Rice. “No interruption in services is expected.”

For more information contact 877-NMPARKS or visit www.nmparks.com or contact Reclamation at their

Albuquerque Area Office at (505)462-3576.

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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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