

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# New Mexico State Parks to Host First Day Hikes

**Santa Fe, NM** – First Day Hikes are happening all across the country on January 1, and eight New Mexico State Parks are participating in America’s State Parks’ third annual event that invites families to celebrate the New Year hiking in the great outdoors.

“Each First Day Hike offers an opportunity to explore unique natural and cultural treasures in New Mexico,” said State Parks Director Tommy Mutz. “For this special event, Elephant Butte Dam will be open to foot traffic for the first time since September 11, 2001.”

- Two hikes will take place at Elephant Butte Lake State Park on January 1, to include an Elephant Butte Historic Dam Hike and the Luchini Trail nature hike, both from 12 - 3 p.m.
- Oasis State Park’s First Day Hike is on January 1, 2014 from 1:30-3 p.m. Join Valerie Russ for a refreshing walk through the sand dunes. Please meet at the south pond parking lot. The park is located 6.5 miles north of Portales.
- Get your new year started off on the right foot. Join a fun, hands-on hike through Cerrillos Hills State Park on the first day of 2014 from 1 - 3 p.m.
- Hike with interpreter Debra Herbst on the Bluff Trail at Bottomless Lakes State Park at 10 a.m. on January 1.
- Ute Lake State Park will host a Start Your Year Right Hike at 10:30 a.m. at the Logan Park Area on January 1.
- Explore Table Mountain at City of Rocks State Park starting at 9 a.m. on January 1.
- Join a ranger on the Discovery Trail and welcome in the New Year at Sumner Lake State Park from 1–2 p.m. on January 1.
- Sugarite Canyon State Park offers an easy to moderate walk through the Sugarite Coal Camp from 9-11 a.m.

For more information on cold weather hiking, visit: <http://www.americanhiking.org/cold-weather-hiking/>. To learn more about State Park events, visit: [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com).

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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.*