

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## News Release

June 28, 2012

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# Celebrate the Fourth of July with New Mexico State Parks *Fireworks Displays Over Lake Waters*

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Parks Division invites visitors to public fireworks displays at nearby parks instead of lighting their own due to the extreme fire danger. Public fireworks displays will be held over lake waters at Elephant Butte Lake State Park, Eagle Nest Lake State Park, Sumner Lake State Park and Ute Lake State Park. 34 of the 35 New Mexico state parks are open and many parks have activities scheduled over the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

“Enjoy spectacular fireworks at a state park,” said Tommy Mutz, New Mexico State Parks Division Director. “Our displays will be held over lakes with local fire officials on hand to prevent any fire danger.”

### Firework displays at state parks include:

**[Elephant Butte Lake State Park](#)** – Fourth of July fireworks display will be held on Saturday, June 30 at 8:00 p.m. Fireworks will be launched from Rattlesnake Island in the middle of the lake. A fantastic fireworks display can be viewed from the beach or from a boat on the lake. Day use fees are waived for the show only. For more information call: Friends of Elephant Butte Lake State Park at (575) 744-5923.

**[Eagle Nest Lake State Park](#)** – Fourth of July fireworks display will be held on Wednesday, July 4th at 8:00 p.m. The fireworks are sponsored by the Village of Eagle Nest and the Eagle Nest Chamber of Commerce. Regular entrance fees to the park apply. For more information call: (575) 377-1594.

**[Sumner Lake State Park](#)** – Fourth of July Fireworks display will be held on Wednesday, July 4th at the park at 9:00 p.m. and are sponsored by the Lake Sumner Fire Department. Regular entrance fees apply. For more information call: (575) 355-2541.

**[Ute Lake State Park](#)** – Fourth of July fireworks display will be held on Saturday, July 7th at dark. The display is sponsored by the Logan Ute Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Logan Bass Club, Village of Logan and the Village of Logan Lodger’s Tax Board. Regular entrance fees to the park apply. For more information call: (575) 487-2284.

### Other state parks with activities during the Fourth of July holiday include:

**[Caballo Lake State Park](#)** – Join Ernie Dogwolf Lovato for ***Storytelling and Music*** and enjoy Native American, stories, songs, guitar and flute music. The event will be held on Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Regular fees apply. For more information contact: Salvador Gonzales at (575) 743-3942.

**[El Vado Lake State Park](#)** – Come explore the ***Night Sky Trails*** above El Vado Lake State Park on Saturday July, 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 10:30 p.m. We will begin the evening with a green laser guided tour of main stars and constellations before sampling close-up views of star clusters, nebulae, distant galaxies and the planet Saturn through telescopes. Regular entrance fees apply. For information contact: (505) 588-7247.

[Heron Lake State Park](#) – Experience a **Solar System Trail Hike** on Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. and learn the relative distances of the planets from the sun. At trail's end we will observe our nearest star, the sun, through a specially filtered solar telescope. Regular entrance fees apply. For information contact: (505) 588-7470.

[Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park](#) – The annual **Carlsbad Area Art Association Living Desert Show** has begun will be held through July 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It features the exhibit and sale of desert-themed artwork including pottery, jewelry, sculpture, paintings, and more. Park entrance fees are waived for the show only.

Living Desert will also feature **Music and Moon** on Saturday, June 30 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., which is a free concert by the Carlsbad Community Band, followed by a **Full Moon Walk** through the park from 8:15 to 8:45 p.m. Regular entrance fees apply. For more information on any of these events call: Kathryn Law at (575) 887-5516.

[Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park](#) – A **Bird Tour** will be held on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. A **Nature Hike** will be held on Sunday, July 1 and Friday, July 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Bring binoculars, water, and sunscreen. Regular entrance fees to the park apply. For more information call: LuAnn Kilday at (575) 523-4398

[Navajo Lake State Park](#) – A **Night Sky Trails** stargazing event will be held on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Celebrate Independence Day by viewing celestial fireworks in the night sky above Navajo Lake State Park. Regular entrance fees to the park apply.

Also at Navajo Lake, on Sunday, July 1, enjoy **Animal Superpowers** and explore the connections between your favorite comic book characters and wildlife. This roving ranger-guided program will be from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Pine Main Campground loops. Later that day, from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m., the program **Bats!** will be provided and visitors will use a bat detector to locate and identify bats in the campgrounds. For more information about these events call: (505) 632-2278.

[Rio Grande Nature Center](#) – Learn about native plants with biologist and author, Carolyn Dodson during the **Birds and Bees in the Garden** presentation. The event will be on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and regular entrance fees apply. For information call: (505) 344-7240.

[Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park](#) – Participate in the park's annual **Flag Retirement Ceremony** on Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. When flags become tattered and torn they should be retired in a dignified manner. Join the park for an educational and hands-on ceremony in which flags are retired by burning. The Moreno Valley Fire Department will assist. There is no entrance fee. For information call: Kate German (575) 377-2293

State parks are great places to find new interests, socialize, and create new memories. Always make safety your first priority. Being prepared on the water could save your life and the lives of your loved ones. State law requires that you wear a lifejacket when on a canoe, kayak, or raft and that all children 12 years old and younger wear a lifejacket while on the deck of a moving vessel. The State Parks Division offers **FREE** boating safety classes around the state and on-line throughout the year.

Celebrate New Mexico's Centennial at YOUR state parks; for more information, call 888-NMPARKS or 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.*

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