

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Susana Martinez
Governor

John H. Bemis
Cabinet Secretary

Brett F. Woods, Ph.D.
Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Tommy Mutz, Division Director
State Parks Division



News Release

July 10, 2012

Contact: Jodi McGinnis Porter 505-476-3226; E-mail: Jodi.Porter@state.nm.us

Prairie Fest Goes Wild July 14 at Ute Lake State Park

LOGAN, N.M. – From snakes to stars to birds of prey, come celebrate all things prairie at Ute Lake State Park’s annual *Prairie Fest* on Saturday, July 14. Programs will feature a variety of live prairie critters, including hawks and reptiles.

“This is a chance for families to expand their appreciation of Ute Lake State Park,” said Regional Interpretive Ranger Pat Walsh. “Beyond the lake, there is a wide world of prairie to experience. At the festival, there will be activities for kids to run like pronghorn and dress up like a prairie dog, and everyone can make some prairie art.”

Presenters from the New Mexico Herpetological Society will have live snakes and reptiles in the Visitor Center for a two-hour Open House in the afternoon. There is an evening program, and another presenter from New Mexico Raptors will bring live birds of prey for visitors to admire.

Visitors will be able to make their own *plein air* (open air) watercolor paintings of the lake in a fun program led by Charles Wood, another regional interpreter for New Mexico State Parks Division. The last event of the day is a night sky program led by Ranger Walsh to explore prairie planets and stars by telescope and laser light.

The festival is sponsored in part by the Friends of Ute Lake.

The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, July 14

Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Live Prairie Hawks! —North Area Beach
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Live Herps/Reptiles—Visitor Center
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Antelope Races—North Area Beach
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Make Prairie Art—North Beach Area
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Snakes Alive!—North Area Beach
8:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Saturn by Telescope—North Area Beach

Ute Lake State Park is located near Logan, N.M. via N.M. 540. The park is situated in short-grass prairie near the confluence of the Canadian River and Ute Creek. The scenic 8,200-acre lake, which abounds with walleye, bass, catfish and crappie, makes the park a popular destination for fishing and boating. For more information, contact the park at 575-487-2284 or visit www.nmparks.com.

Celebrate New Mexico’s Centennial at YOUR state parks; for more information, call 888-NMPARKS or visit www.nmparks.com.



Short Trips, Long Memories: Your Best Recreation Value Close to Home

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