

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## Update: State Parks Temporary Closures & Reopenings

**Santa Fe, NM** – New Mexico State Parks announces the following updates to temporary park closures and reopenings since the heavy rains of the last 9 days.

- Morphy Lake State Park has entirely reopened (boating, swimming & camping) after being temporarily closed due to safety issues related to heavy area rains. All access roads to the park have also reopened. Minimal erosion damage to the park has been reported. Morphy Lake has risen approximately 2 feet since September 9, 2013.
- Coyote Creek State Park has entirely reopened (boating, swimming & camping) after being temporarily closed due to safety issues related to heavy area rains. All access roads to the park have also reopened, including SR 434 which was temporarily closed due to washouts. Damage to the park included road erosion, loss of the catwalk and loss of fences. Repairs are underway. The creek's level is still high but within creek banks.
- Brantley Lake State Park is still temporarily closed to boating and swimming due to debris. The boating and swimming closure results in the overall closure of the Seven Rivers Day Use area on the west side of Brantley Lake. The remainder of the park is open for other land-based activities such as camping, picnicking, hiking and wildlife viewing. State Parks has extended the stay limit at Brantley Lake State Park to 30 days. Brantley Lake has risen approximately 16 feet since September 9, 2013.
- Elephant Butte Lake State Park's Main Area Boat Ramp is now reopen. Several roads in the Elephant Butte Lake area have also experienced damage. Local traffic may be slowed or diverted at specific locations as necessary. Lakeshore Drive is open. The remainder of the Elephant Butte Lake State Park remains open to boating and swimming, but visitors are advised to be aware of the potential for debris in the water due to flooding. Boaters and swimmers are urged to take precautions. Elephant Butte Lake has risen approximately 5 feet since September 9, 2013.
- Santa Rosa Lake State Park remains open to boating and swimming, but visitors are advised to be aware of the potential for debris in the water due to flooding. Boaters and swimmers are urged to take precautions. Santa Rose Lake has risen approximately 42 feet since September 9, 2013.
- Sumner Lake State Park remains open to boating and swimming, but visitors are advised to be aware of the potential for debris in the water due to flooding. Boaters and swimmers are urged to take precautions. Sumner Lake has risen approximately 24 feet since September 9, 2013.

- Conchas Lake State Park remains open to boating and swimming, but visitors are advised to be aware of the potential for debris in the water due to flooding. Boaters and swimmers are urged to take precautions. Conchas Lake has risen approximately 5 feet since September 9, 2013.
- Ute Lake State Park remains open to boating and swimming, but visitors are advised to be aware of the potential for debris in the water due to flooding. Boaters and swimmers are urged to take precautions. Ute Lake has risen approximately 4 feet since September 9, 2013.
- Heron Lake State Park remains open to boating and swimming, but visitors are advised to be aware of the potential for debris in the water due to flooding. Boaters and swimmers are urged to take precautions. Heron Lake has risen approximately .03 inches since September 9, 2013.

State Parks will provide more information as it becomes available. The latest information on temporary closures and advisories can be found at [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.*