

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

---

**Susana Martinez**  
Governor

**David Martin**  
Cabinet Secretary-Designate

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

**Tommy Mutz, Division Director**  
State Parks Division



## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 2, 2013**

Contact: Beth Wojahn 505-476-3226; E-mail: [beth.wojahn@state.nm.us](mailto:beth.wojahn@state.nm.us)  
Jim Winchester 505-231-8800; E-mail: [jim.winchester@state.nm.us](mailto:jim.winchester@state.nm.us)

# San Juan River Wetland Restoration Project Temporarily Closed to Public Access

**Navajo Dam, NM** - The 45-acre wetland restoration completed by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) in July 2013, at the Muñoz Day Use Area, Navajo Lake State Park, will be closed to public access until August 1, 2014.

Biologists with the NMDGF who completed the habitat seeding have requested the area be closed to public access for approximately 1 year to allow new vegetation to become established and the restoration to reach its full potential. The NMDGF partnered with the Bureau of Land Management to remove non-native invasive plant species such as salt cedar and Russian olives from the property before creating a new wetland system, complete with restored riparian areas and pond habitats. Approximately 50,000 willows, sedges and rushes were planted by hand and will provide a diverse habitat for migrating waterfowl and other wildlife.

“We need to allow the plants to establish a strong root system so they can reproduce and expand,” Department Fisheries Chief Mike Sloane said. “By protecting the area now, with time the plants can become strong enough to withstand the effects of people traversing the project area.”

The restoration effort also allows the area to be more easily accessed and enjoyed by the public and licensed hunters and anglers who paid for the project.

“A total of \$1.2 million was spent on pond and river habitat improvements—of that, \$200,000 was used on riparian areas for plant establishment. The public will be able to see the full impact of this important project by allowing time for the vegetation to become established,” said Navajo Lake State Park Superintendent James Valenzuela.

The Muñoz Day Use Area parking lot remains open. The closed area is indicated by signs around the area and informational maps are located at the Muñoz and Texas Hole Day Use Areas, and park visitor center.

For further information contact Navajo Lake State Park at 505-632-2278, or visit [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com).



#####

*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](http://www.nmparks.com)