

Bottomless Lakes State Park
Management and Development Plan

Director's Approval: _____ **Date:** _____

Bottomless Lakes State Park
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SECRETARY'S Approval: _____ **Date:** _____

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PREFACE

Each state park administered and managed by the State Parks Division (SPD) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) is required to establish a Management and Development Plan (Plan). {Reference: Title 19 Chapter 5, Part 3 of the New Mexico Administrative Code: 19NMAC 5.3.} The objective of these plans is to provide direction for the management and development of the state parks in a manner that enhances recreational opportunities, protects park resources, provides for public input and protects the natural environment. In essence, each plan will identify an overall management philosophy and then outline a specific strategy for achieving management goals at the park during a five-year period. {Reference: Section 13 of the SPD's Policy and Procedures Manual}.

The planning process Plan consists of: establishing a planning team for each state park; conducting an on-site inspection/assessment of the park and, its resources and facilities; analyzing all information compiled on the park; proposing goals and related activities to be completed over the next five years; developing a Plan for the park; soliciting public input on the draft Plan and revising it as appropriate; approval of the revised Plan by the State Parks Division Director; and implementation of the approved Plan by the Park Manager/Superintendent.

Any and all comments or recommendations concerning the Bottomless Lakes State Park Management and Development Plan should be directed to:

Steve Patterson
Park Superintendent
HC 12 Box 1200
Roswell, NM 88201

Phone: (505) 624-6058

Fax: (505) 624-6029

E-mail: botlakes@roswell.net

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. INTRODUCTION

The vision of park staff is that visitors who come to Bottomless Lakes State Park (BLSP) should have an enjoyable and fun-filled experience, and that they find a clean park with friendly staff who supply exceptional customer service. Their visit should be educational and memorable. Above all they should feel safe and have a relaxing stay, which will encourage them to return.

BLSP's Mission is "To provide a quality outdoor recreation experience to all visitors through the protection of the natural environment, preservation of historic resources, and educational programming."

Goals to accomplish the mission:

1. Provide protection of the natural environment and preservation of historical resources through ongoing evaluation and management practices.
2. Provide a safe outdoor experience for all visitors.
3. Provide educational opportunities through programs in the park area schools and civic organizations.
4. Maintain a working relationship with other recreation/environmental organizations and agencies.

This plan sets forth the specific goals, policies, improvements, and changes the Park proposes to implement between Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 and FY 2005 (July 1, 2001-June 30, 2005).

B. SUMMARY of PROPOSED ACTIONS and POLICIES

1. PROPOSED ACTIONS

Tables 1-5 provide a detailed list of proposed actions for the FY01-FY05 planning period. The park has set forth four major goals and multiple tasks to achieve each of them. These strategies are grouped by objective and priorities are identified for each fiscal year.

An estimate of the financial and human resources required for each task and a time frame for implementing them are also listed. In FY01, the plan calls for an expenditure of \$598,050. The tables identify expenditures for FY02 (\$88,050), FY03 (\$39,550), FY04 (\$106,050) and FY05 (\$37,050). These funds have not yet been appropriated by the Legislature, but this plan will be used to advocate the projects identified. There are several possible funding pools listed in the last column of each table that could be used to accomplish these projects. The major goals are to complete projects that enhance public safety and provide for ADA compliance, enhance resource protection, develop and maintain facilities and to provide education and interpretive exhibits and programs.

**Bottomless Lakes State Park
Table 1
Fiscal Year 01**

Goal	Priority	Task	Time Frame FY	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Page Number
2. Resource Protection	5	Salt Cedar eradication	01 to 05	300/yr	PVT	20
	13	Inventory cultural/natural resources	01	In-house	AOB	20
3. Develop and Maintain Facilities	6	Convert old ranger residence behind Visitor Center into two camp host sites	01	3,500	INM/AOB	30
	10	Centralized water station in Lea Lake day use area	01	250	AOB	23
	9	Electric service to Lea Lake group shelter	01	750	RV Electric	23
	3	Expand boat dock to accommodate rental equipment. Expansion to include storage building on dock for equipment.	01	25,000 25,000	BOAT CIP	24
	1	Renovate Lea Lake recreation building and CCC water tower (with exhibits).	01	500,000	CIP	23
	4	Construction of group shelter in Lea Lake hookup campground	01	10,000	PVT	29
	8	Water and electric service to Lea Lake hookup campground group shelter	01	1,000	RV Electric AOB	30
	11	Base course to dirt roadways	01 to 05	750/yr	AOB	26
	2	Rework old sewer line from Site 6 under Lea Lake parking lot to dump station; remove island in paved parking lot and patch and reseal pavement.	01	30,000	INM	30
4. Education and Interpretation	7	Printing of existing park brochure.	01	1,000	AOB	15
	12	Printing of bird list/brochure	01	500	AOB	19

Total FY 03 proposed expenditure: \$598,050

Funding source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget-Parks Division); **Boat** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Boat Fuel Tax/Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **D.J.**(Dingell-Johnson; NM (Department of Game & Fish); **Trails** (Federal Highway Funds); **INM** (Inmate Parks); **IWC** (Inmate Work Camp Program); **PVT** (Private Sector or Volunteers/Friends Groups); **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps); **RV** (RV Electric)

Bottomless Lakes State Park

Table 2

Fiscal Year 02

Goal	Priority	Task	Time Frame	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Page Number
1. Public Safety/ADA	3	Install new Lea Lake water overflow gate controls	02	5,000	AOB	25
2. Resource Protection	5	Salt Cedar eradication	01 to 05	300/yr.	PVT	20
3. Develop and Maintain Facilities	2	Pave dirt overflow parking lot at Lea Lake, and construct post and rail fence around border of lot	02	30,000	INM	30
	8	Base course to dirt roadways	01 to 05	750/yr.	AOB	26
	4	Replace traffic control bollards at Devil's Inkwell Lake and rework/base course in the parking area	02	1,500	AOB	26
4. Education and Interpretation	1	Remodel Visitor Center exhibits	02	50,000	CIP	22
	6	Develop Interpretive Master Plan	02	In-house	AOB	22
	7	Print wildflower list/brochure	02	500	AOB	22

Total FY 03 proposed expenditure: \$88,050

Funding source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget-Parks Division); **Boat** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Boat Fuel Tax/Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **D.J.**(Dingell-Johnson; **NM** (Department of Game & Fish); **Trails** (Federal Highway Funds); **INM** (Inmate Parks); **IWC** (Inmate Work Camp Program); **PVT** (Private Sector or Volunteers/Friends Groups); **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps); **RV** (RV Electric)

**Bottomless Lakes State Park
Table 3
Fiscal Year 03**

Goal	Priorit y	Task	Time Frame	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Page Number
1. Public Safety/ADA	6	Install traffic control gates at Lea Lake Overlook	03	5,000	CIP	27
2. Resource Protection	4	Salt Cedar eradication	01 to 05	300/yr	PVT	20
3. Develop and Maintain Facilities	3	Replace park entrance sign at Dexter entrance	03	2,500	CIP	15
	1	Replace/augment sand on Lea Lake Beach	03	6,000	INM	30
	5	Construct two camp host sites adjacent to recreation building, at site of old shop yard	03	10,000	INM	29
	7	Base course to dirt roadways	01to 05	750/yr	AOB	24
4. Education and Interpretation	2	Construct interpretive trail from Lea Lake to Pasture Lake including signage	03	15,000	INM/Trails	22

Total FY 03 proposed expenditure: \$39,550

Funding source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget-Parks Division); **Boat** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Boat Fuel Tax/Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **D.J.**(Dingell-Johnson; NM (Department of Game & Fish); **Trails** (Federal Highway Funds); **INM** (Inmate Parks); **IWC** (Inmate Work Camp Program); **PVT** (Private Sector or Volunteers/Friends Groups); **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps); **RV** (RV Electric)

**Bottomless Lakes State Park
Table 4
Fiscal Year 04**

Goal	Priority	Task	Time Frame	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Page Number
2. Resource Protection	6	Salt cedar eradication	01 to 05	300/yr.	PVT	20
3. Develop and Maintain Facilities	1	Replace package plant	04	75,000	CIP	27
	3	Patch/seal pavement at Overlook	04	5,000	CIP	27
	4	Replace park entrance sign at Roswell entrance	04	2,500	CIP	15
	2	Expand shop yard and add four covered bays for regional equipment	04	20,000	INM	25
	5	Install traffic gates at Visitor Center entrance	04	2,500	CIP	26
	7	Base course to dirt roadways	04	750/yr	AOB	26

Total FY 03 proposed expenditure: \$106,050

Funding source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget-Parks Division); **Boat** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Boat Fuel Tax/Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **D.J.** (Dingell-Johnson; NM (Department of Game & Fish); **Trails** (Federal Highway Funds); **INM** (Inmate Parks); **IWC** (Inmate Work Camp Program); **PVT** (Private Sector or Volunteers/Friends Groups); **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps); **RV** (RV Electric)

**Bottomless Lakes State Park
Table 5
Fiscal Year 05**

Goal	Priority	Task	Time Frame	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Page Number
2. Resource Protection	7	Salt cedar eradication	01 to 05	300/yr	PVT	20
3. Develop and Maintain Facilities	1	Replace signs on park interior	05	1,000	AOB	15
	2	Replace Visitor Center entrance sign	05	2,500	CIP	15
	3	Expand playground at Lea Lake	05	20,000	INM	30
	4	Park boundary survey	05	10,000	CIP	12
	5	Install gates at Devil's Inkwell entrance	05	2,500	CIP	26
	6	Base course to dirt roadways	05	750/yr	AOB	26

Total FY 03 proposed expenditure: \$37,050

Funding source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget-Parks Division); **Boat** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Boat Fuel Tax/Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **D.J.**(Dingell-Johnson; NM (Department of Game & Fish); **Trails** (Federal Highway Funds); **INM** (Inmate Parks); **IWC** (Inmate Work Camp Program); **PVT** (Private Sector or Volunteers/Friends Groups); **YCC** (Youth Conservation Corps); **RV** (RV Electric)

2. POLICY DIRECTIVES

The policy directives summarized below have been developed to support and carry out the overall mission of BLSP during the planning period:

- Continue to upgrade and expand facilities and infrastructure
- Protect natural and historical resources
- Provide a quality visitor experience
- Continue to expand the existing interpretive and educational program

II. PARK DESCRIPTION

A. BACKGROUND

BLSP was established as the first state park on November 18, 1933 by Commissioner Frank Vesely, Commissioner of Public Lands of the State of New Mexico, on the recommendation of the State Science Commission.

“Whereas the State Science Commission by resolution has recommended to the Commissioner of Public Lands a certain hereinafter-described area east of Roswell, New Mexico, and commonly known as ‘Bottomless Lakes,’ as of scientific interest by reason of the fact that: upon said lands are situated a series of lakes of unusual depth in proportion to their diameter, formed by collapse caverns in a gypsum formation in an artesian area, and should be preserved for the use and pleasure of the people of the State of New Mexico”
Commissioner of Public Lands, November 1933

The SPD leases approximately 313 acres from the State Land Office for \$1,700 annually. (See Appendix D for legal description of this land.)

There are an undetermined number of acres owned by a private landholder, Circle SP Ranch, within park boundaries. A lease agreement does not exist at this time, nor is there any evidence that an agreement ever has existed. A survey of park boundaries is scheduled for FY05 using \$10,000 of CIP.

It is further recommended that all land within park boundaries not owned by SPD be purchased from the respective governmental agency or private landowner, or that land trades be made.

There are at least three areas of land adjacent to park boundaries that would be desirable acquisitions should they become available. They are the Garnsey Buffalo Kill site owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Fin and Feather Club at Dimmit Lake (private) and the Lea Lake Overflow wetlands (private and BLM).

B. KEY FEATURES

Recreational Opportunities

BLSP offers many and varied recreational experiences for the outdoor enthusiasts. The Park is open year-round so as to accommodate the visitors' recreation desires.

Swimming: Swimming is permitted only at Lea Lake. There, the visitor will find a well-manicured sandy beach with an accommodating gentle slope from the shoreline towards deeper water. Lifeguards are on duty from Memorial Day through Labor Day, generally from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Swimming is permitted at any hour; however, it is discouraged after dark and is at all times at the swimmers' own risk.

Scuba Diving: Scuba diving is permitted only at Lea Lake. Diving in all other lakes requires an approved Park Use Permit. The best diving at Lea Lake is from July through September. During this time a thermocline bubble is formed on the lake bottom where the highest level of spring water inflow occurs. This area of the lake bottom has come to be known as the "Mecca" and offers visibility of up to 75 feet.

Lea Lake Recreation Facility: The recreation building is adjacent to the beach area and offers shelter from the hot summer sun. Here visitors can purchase souvenirs, a cool soda and a snack. Rental of the ping-pong tables, pedal cruisers, paddleboards and lifejackets can also be done here. Pedal cruisers are a great way for families to further explore Lea Lake.

Boating / Sailing: Boating in any form is permitted at Lea Lake only. Only boats with motors of 3 horsepower or less are allowed on the lake. Although there is no size limit on sailboats, visitors must keep in mind that there is not a boat ramp, thus limiting the boat size to what can be carried to the water. Sailboarding has become quite popular here.

Fishing: The high salinity of some of the lakes prohibits the survival of game fish species. However, Cottonwood, Mirror, Devil's Inkwell and Pasture Lakes do support rainbow trout and are stocked every two weeks by the Department of Game and Fish (DGF) from November through March. Anglers must adhere to all DGF regulations.

Hiking: Hiking is a great way to get different perspectives of the beautiful sinkhole lakes. Due to the very unstable conditions of the gypsum bluffs, hiking is prohibited in the cliff areas surrounding Lea Lake, and other cliff areas should be avoided. Photographic opportunities abound for the hiking enthusiast.

Bird Watching: Bottomless Lakes offers great year-round birding opportunities with approximately 80 species identified on the Park bird list, which will soon be available to the public. Lazy Lagoon attracts most of the waterfowl species, while songbirds and raptors can be seen park-wide. The Park has a rehabilitation program for injured raptors and receives these birds from all over southeastern New Mexico. A non-releasable Red-tailed Hawk named Scarlett can be seen at the Visitor Center and at presentations in area schools and civic organizations.

Picnicking: Bottomless Lakes is extremely popular for day use activities such as picnicking. The Park offers approximately 50 developed sites as well as many other undeveloped sites along the lakeshores.

Camping: There are 32 developed campsites with electric and water hook-ups, and an additional 32 developed campsites without hook-ups.

Special Events: BLSP hosts several special events on an annual basis as well as other events as the occasions arise. The annual events are as follows: Hook, Line and Sinker Day – fishing tournament open to anglers of all ages with prizes donated by local merchants; Bottomless Triathlon – two sprint-distance triathlons, the first for National Age Group competitors and the second open to the public; Sand Sculpture Contest – competition on the Lea Lake beach with prizes awarded by age group category; Paddleboard Races – prizes awarded by age group category; Enchanted Evenings at Bottomless Lakes – a series of interpretive programs on the Lea Lake beach every Saturday evening from Memorial Day through Labor Day with topics that are generally nature oriented.

III. VISITATION and REVENUE

A. VISITATION

Visitor Use Trends

The majority of day use at BLSP occurs during the summer months of June, July and August. This extremely intense visitation occurs primarily at the Lea Lake Recreation Area. Swimming, picnicking, scuba diving and boating are among the day use activities occurring during this time period. During the months of April, May and September, visitation is low during the week while weekends are high-use periods.

During late September and October, total visitation drops dramatically. November through March visitation increases moderately, again with the majority of use occurring at the lower lakes area. Most visitors during this time are here for the trout fishing.

Use of the park for camping is somewhat seasonal as well, with March and April being the busiest. However, due to the increase in the number of hookup sites, there has been a marked increase in camping throughout the year.

Overall park visitation has been increasing. FY98 saw a 27% increase over the previous year for a total of approximately 160,000 visitors. This large increase was due primarily to the 50th anniversary celebration of the “Roswell Incident.”

TABLE 6 ANNUAL VISITATION AND RECEIPTS		
Fiscal Year	Visitation	Self-Generated Receipts
99	134,184	\$84,220.52
98	162,386	\$95,784.20
97	124,666	\$75,997.74
96	101,366	\$71,496.64
95	82,331	\$69,139.00
Total	604,933	\$396,638.10
Average	120,987	\$79,327.62

B. REVENUE

As indicated by Table 6 above, BLSP generates an annual average revenue of just over \$79,000. Approximately 70% of this revenue is generated during the months of May through August. During these months, the water recreation rental equipment accounts for an average of just over \$14,000. This is a unique and extremely successful program for BLSP.

IV. EXISTING OPERATIONS/FACILITIES and PROPOSED ACTIONS

The following section provides a brief summary of all aspects of the park. Details are provided on any proposed actions or changes in management policies for the plan period.

A. OPERATIONS and MANAGEMENT

Visitor Services

Good customer service for visitors starts before they ever get to the park. The park receives many requests for information through the mail and by telephone. Park employees and volunteers are trained to be thorough, accurate and prompt with their replies. This requires quality brochures on this park and surrounding attractions. Many people depend on staff to plan their vacations. The park brochure needs to be updated and of higher quality if BLSP is to fulfill visitor expectations at the first point of contact. A new brochure will be printed in FY01 at a cost of \$1,000 from AOB.

Signage is another early point of contact where improvements could be made. We must work closely with the NM State Highway Department to insure that directional signs to the park are accurate and in good repair. Signs within the park must also be uniform and in good repair. Interior signs will be replaced in FY05 for \$1,000 from AOB. Entrance signs on the north and south need replacement as well as the Visitor Center Information sign. The south Dexter entrance sign will be replaced in FY03 for \$2,500 from CIP; the Visitor Center's entrance sign will be replaced in FY05 for \$2,500 from CIP; and the north Roswell entrance sign will be replaced in FY04 for \$2,500 from CIP. Signs must be well placed, informative, and limited in number. Information kiosks help in controlling the number of signs needed. There are currently two in the lower lakes area, one at the Visitor Center and one at the Devil's Inkwell entrance. A third should be installed at the Lea Lake recreation area.

Once visitors arrive, the park must above all be clean and safe. Staff should be well versed in what recreational opportunities exist, as well as knowledgeable about history, flora, fauna

and geology. Quality service to our visitors will ensure that they reap the greatest satisfaction from the recreational opportunities offered at BLSP.

Safety Considerations

Water safety, for both staff members and the visiting public, is one of the primary concerns at BLSP. Anywhere there are lakes, there is the potential for drowning. Steps are taken wherever possible to minimize this potential, particularly around the Lea Lake recreation area, which receives intensive use. Swimming is allowed only at Lea Lake, and lifeguards are on duty during the daytime in the summer. All visitors renting equipment (boats, paddleboards, etc.) at Lea Lake are supplied with lifejackets and are required to wear them at all times while using the equipment. Lifejackets are also available for rent separately, for a nominal fee. A strictly enforced alcohol prohibition is in place around Lea Lake, helping to reduce the risk of alcohol-related accidents, and the gates are locked at night in an effort to improve safety by restricting access to the water. Other preventive measures include annual water safety training for park employees, as well as an initiative to send all park employees to Marine Enforcement Officer training.

Unstable terrain around the cliffs is another area of concern for visitor safety. The cliffs around Lea Lake are posted as a restricted area, and the Overlook parking lot above Lea Lake is fenced to restrict cliff access. Visitors entering this area are usually dealt with through an educational contact and verbal warning, although citations can be issued if deemed necessary. The cliffs around the other lakes are not posted, but educational contacts are made when appropriate.

Every effort is made to encourage safe work habits and provide a safe working environment for park staff. Weekly safety meetings are held, personal protective equipment is available and used consistently, and First Aid/CPR training is kept up to date. Safety consciousness among park staff translates to a safe experience for the visiting public.

Park Maintenance

A clean and safe park is the goal. A facility, which is neglected, is much more prone to vandalism and other such undesirable activity, which ultimately leads to greater expense and man-hours. All park maintenance is performed in accordance with SPD Standards of Care.

Morning hours are primarily dedicated to trash, litter, campsite and bathhouse cleanup. Afternoon hours are primarily for equipment maintenance and park projects. When staff is available, they may work on other non-maintenance tasks at any time.

Landscaping

Developed landscape areas of the park must be maintained on a regular basis. Landscaping will be done with flora and materials endemic to this area whenever possible. Interpretive signs will enhance landscaping whenever possible.

The Lea Lake recreation area will require additional landscaping efforts. Efforts should be made to solicit the help of local garden clubs and other knowledgeable persons or organizations prior to implementing plan.

Hazardous Materials

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are to be maintained in each area of the park where hazardous materials are stored or used. A master file will be kept at the park office.

Employees will be trained in the use of personal protective equipment and such equipment will be made available. The New Mexico State Police will be immediately notified of any large commercial type spills or accidents within park boundaries.

Emergencies

All employees should be familiar with and adhere to those procedures outlined in the SPD Policy and Procedures Manual. Emergency phone numbers will be posted at every phone in the park, including public pay phones. Employees are required to act consistent with their training.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement at BLSP has been and will most likely continue to be an area of critical concern. This park must be maintained for the enjoyment of the family. Unlawful behavior will in all cases be dealt with in accordance to the statutes of the State of New Mexico. The park supports, and will continue to enforce, the prohibition of the consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages at the Lea Lake recreation area.

Park staff continues to nurture positive working relationships with nearby law enforcement agencies such as the Chaves County Sheriff's Office, New Mexico State Police and the New Mexico Mounted Patrol. The Mounted Patrol has worked under the law enforcement authority of the SPD at Lea Lake during the summer months. This program has been a tremendous success and will be continued. The possibility of contract law enforcement from the State Police or Sheriff's Office is currently on the drawing board.

Facility Closures

Due to inadequate staffing levels and seasonal demand, some park facilities may be closed to public use. However, the park itself will be open every day of the year.

The Visitor Information Center will generally be open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It may be closed without notice when staff is required elsewhere in the park. An increase in the volunteer staff is the most equitable means to minimize these closures.

The bathhouse recently completed in the Lea Lake hook-up campground will be closed during the winter months. Closure will generally be mid-September to mid-April, depending on weather and visitation demands.

The Lea Lake recreation building will be closed following Labor Day weekend and will remain closed until early May. It may open sooner or close later depending on demand and adequate staffing. If the park offices are moved from the Visitor Center to this facility as planned, it may be more feasible to extend the dates of operation. This facility may also be opened temporarily for wintertime special events.

Any park facility may be closed at any time when unforeseen circumstances arise. Such closures may require approval of the SPD Director.

Capacity Limitations

The Lea Lake recreation area receives the most intensive use in the park. Extremely high visitation levels occur from May through September with June and July being the busiest. This area has historically received high visitation and as a result is an almost totally developed area. Damage to the environment is of little concern here except to the cliff area

on the east side of the lake where access is already prohibited. The concern for limiting or setting a visitor carrying capacity is for maintaining a quality outdoor recreation experience. The method for setting a capacity limit is somewhat unclear at this time. The most probable method will be in available parking spaces. Public education through news media will be extremely important in starting to enforce a visitation limit.

It is unlikely that a carrying capacity will need to be enforced in the lower lakes area in the next five years. However, lake access points may need to be implemented to prevent excessive erosion and destruction of shoreline environments.

As with all changes in management practices, public education will be the key to success.

Energy Conservation

Saving dollars and cents through sound energy conservation means more money for park programs that will better serve the visitors.

All new construction will be completed with the best conservation principles in the design. Older facilities will be updated and renovated as budget allows so as to be more efficient. Employees will be educated on sound energy practices. Quarterly reports will be completed as required to document conservation efforts.

B. NATURAL RESOURCES

BLSP is approximately 16 miles southeast of Roswell. The park covers approximately 1,600 acres at elevations from 3460 to 3660 feet. The park is bounded on the west by the Pecos River and on the east by a series of bluffs. The unique geologic history of the area has given rise to a number of unique natural features, including a chain of eight gypsum sinkhole lakes and several rare and protected species of plants and animals.

Geology and Hydrology

The major rock unit in the Park is the Artesia Group which is of Permian age (230 million years old). During Permian time, the park was located on the northwest edge of the Delaware Basin, a shallow arm of the Permian sea where carbonates and evaporites were being deposited. These later became the San Andres Formation that consists largely of limestone and gypsum and underlies the Park. The next sequence of sediments deposited there became the Artesia Group, which consists of layers of red, green and gray gypsum, limestone, sandstone, siltstone and shale. These beds were later tilted downward 2° to 3° to the east. The bluffs along the eastern margin of the Park expose a cross-section of these rocks. The Artesia Group is known for Pecos diamonds," which are small, doubly terminated quartz crystals found in the gypsum outcrops. A display of Pecos diamonds can be seen at the visitor center. Flood plains, oxbow lakes and swamps border the Pecos River channel. Alluvial deposits along the Pecos River are of Quaternary age (more than 1 million years old) and consist of clay and silt with minor sand and gravel. Soils consist of sandy and gravelly silt to a depth of four feet, below which is a gypsum clay. Soils near the lake edges can be white and salty due to evaporation of water containing dissolved gypsum. Above the floodplain are several older terraces that represent higher levels of the Pecos River correlating to melting of glaciers in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains after the last Pleistocene Ice Age, 10,000 to 15,000 years ago.

There is a chain of eight lakes adjacent to the Pecos River, seven of which are in the park. They range in depth from 17 to 90 feet, and surface acre size varies from less than 1 acre up to 15 surface acres. These lakes are sinkholes, formed when circulating underground water dissolved gypsum and limestone deposits to form subterranean caverns. Sinkholes formed when the roofs of the caverns collapsed from their own weight. Sinkholes that extend below the current water table became lakes. Other sinkholes remain above the modern water table and are dry. These lakes were created and continue to be fed by groundwater originating in the Sacramento Mountains far to the west. This water traveled eastward through the San Andres Formation, beneath the Pecos River and then upward in the form of springs. This artesian flow caused the lakes to continuously overflow until the early 1900s, when intensive pumping of groundwater for irrigation caused regional declines of water tables and artesian pressures. The water table remains very shallow in the Lea Lake area, where it lies between 16 and 27 inches below ground level. In other areas of the park, the water table is three feet or more below the ground.

Vegetation

Environmental conditions determine vegetation communities at the park. Important factors include standing water in some areas, lack of water in other areas, saline soil conditions and heat. The original character of the riparian plant community in the park is not well known. Modern vegetation on the floodplain and in the salt flats includes salt cedar (*Tamarisk ramosissima*), honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), snakeweed (*Gutierrezia* sp.) and grasses such as bush muhly (*Muhlenbergia porteri*) and saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*). The upland plant community lacks access to groundwater. Hillsides and bluff tops are dominated by creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), honey mesquite, snakeweed and saltbush. A protected plant, the puzzle sunflower (*Helianthus paradoxus*), grows around the Lea Lake area. The park's wildflowers will be the subject of a brochure scheduled for completion in FY02 using \$500 from Marketing.

Wildlife

Wildlife is plentiful and varied in the park. Mammals populating the area include mule deer, bobcats, coyotes, raccoons, badgers, skunks, jackrabbits and small rodents. The area supports a variety of reptiles and amphibians. In addition to the usual variety of snakes and lizards, the park is home to two protected frogs: the eastern barking frog (*Eleutherodactylus augusti*) and the northern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*). A bird list is being developed for the park, scheduled for completion in FY01 using \$500 from Marketing.

The unique character and origin of the lakes has given rise to an interesting native fish fauna. Fish endemic to the lakes include two protected species: Pecos pupfish (*Cyprinodon pecosensis*) and Mexican tetra (*Astyanax mexicanus*). Other fish species native to the area include mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) and rainwater killifish (*Lucania parva*). Numerous non-native species have been introduced to the lakes during the past 60 years, including the green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*). Currently, only rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is stocked in the freshwater lakes during the winter months.

Natural Resource Protection

The park is located at the northern edge of the Chihuahuan Desert. Although this environment appears to be tough and rugged it is actually quite fragile. One of the greatest risks to the environment today is vehicular and pedestrian traffic off established roadways and trails. Roadways, which were of little or no use, have been closed so they can return to

their natural vegetative state. This is a very slow process. Invader species such as tumbleweed and kochia weed will quickly take over where endemic plants have been killed or the soil disturbed. Transplanting or seed planting of endemic flora is the best method to restore damaged areas, but herbicide application and weeding of invaders is still required.

To prevent such losses several strategies must be undertaken. Any new roadways will require close and careful scrutiny. The development of a good interpretive trail system will discourage visitors from leaving established trails and thereby reduce the number of volunteer trails. Education through interpretation will help the public understand the fragile nature of this environment.

Another great risk to this environment is the invasion of the tamarisk (“salt cedar”) tree. This tree is an introduced species from Asia. It is of little or no value to wildlife, chokes out endemic plants and consumes a tremendous amount of groundwater. The loss of groundwater seriously jeopardizes all of the small lakes in the lower lakes area of the park. For the past two years, the "Friends of Bottomless Lakes" have been conducting a salt cedar eradication program. The trees are cut down at ground level and the stumps painted with a herbicide mixture. Any resprouting is then re-treated with a herbicide spray. The total removal of salt cedar from around Pasture Lake actually saved it from becoming nothing more than a muddy swamp. Plans are for this eradication program to continue throughout the park for the duration of this plan, FY01-FY05 and will cost \$300 per year.

As is true with all human activity in a natural environment, visitor carrying capacities have become a concern. It may become necessary to implement controlled points of access to the lakes in the future. This topic is covered more thoroughly in the “Capacity Limitations” section.

The park is home to at least five protected animal and plant species, as noted earlier. These are the Pecos Pupfish (*Cyprinodon pecosensis*) and the Puzzle Sunflower (*Helianthus paradoxus*). There are very likely other species listed at the federal or state level that reside here or are transient. Budget, staffing and park operation will be factors considered in the commitment to preservation actions. The park will work closely on the management of these species with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as other concerned agencies.

Natural Resource Inventory

Inventory of natural resources will be initiated in FY01 using AOB and volunteer scientists. This inventory is needed to better understand the unique geology and ecosystems present in the park.

C. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural Resource Management

Cultural resources within the park boundaries are subject to state cultural resource protection laws, as well as several federal historic preservation laws (see Appendix E). Development within the park will be coordinated with the State Park Cultural Resources Planner to avoid impact to significant cultural resources. Development on State Trust land will be further coordinated with the State Land Office archaeologist to avoid impact to cultural resources. Also, state park personnel will work to preserve and protect cultural resources from impacts from the public or environmental factors.

Cultural Resource Inventory

No significant cultural resource inventory has been completed at BLSP. A cultural resource survey is scheduled for FY01 with assistance from the SPD Cultural Resource Planner and other qualified volunteers.

Archaeological Sites

There is potential for a variety of archaeological sites at BLSP. Paleoindian hunters and gatherers occupied this region (9500-6000 B.C.). Sites can include characteristic projectile points in association with Late Pleistocene fauna, including woolly mammoth, camel, bison, and sabertooth tiger. During the Archaic period (6000 B.C.-A.D. 900) mobile hunters and gatherers traversed the landscape. This period was drier than the Paleoindian, causing Archaic groups to cluster along permanent streams. Ceramic period (A.D. 600-1600) groups also occupied this area. Although they continued hunting and gathering lifeways, agriculture also became part of the economy. These groups began to utilize ceramics and built pit structures or surface room blocks for shelter.

During the early Historic period (A.D. 1600-1860) the region was occupied by Apache and Comanche groups. These groups were hunters and gatherers, often living in tipis.

In the 1800's, the lakes were a stopover for the cowboys herding cattle through New Mexico Territory on the Goodnight-Loving Trail. After the cowboys tried unsuccessfully to find the bottom of the lakes with their lariats tied together, they dubbed the lakes "bottomless," even though the deepest of the lakes is only 90' deep. Archaeological sites may exist in this area related to the encampments of these early ranchers as they traversed the area.

Lea Lake has a significant historic link and was named for Captain Joseph C. Lea, an early rancher and the founder of the city of Roswell. Captain Lea was a well-known local figure, who rode with the likes of William Clark Quantrill, Frank and Jesse James, and William Bonney, alias Billy the Kid.

BLSP was established as a park in 1933 and at that time, a group of approximately 200 men from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) started construction at the Lea Lake area in December of 1933. Archaeological sites may exist from this period, related to CCC camps and early park construction.

Historic Buildings and Structures

Two historic buildings exist at BLSP. These include the Lea Lake Recreation Building and the Lea Lake Tower, which were constructed between 1933 and 1934 by the CCC and have a great deal of historic significance. These buildings display the meticulous rockwork of the CCC era. They are well-preserved examples of CCC recreational structures. Despite the modifications to the Lea Lake Recreation Building, both buildings retain architectural integrity and renovations can restore both to their original appearance. Both buildings should be considered for listing on the State Register of Cultural Properties as well as the National Register of Historic Places for their architectural integrity and importance in state and local history.

D. INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

If SPD fails to educate the recreating public, it will fail in its mission. Interpretation and education are the least expensive, yet most effective tools staff has in insuring that the resources at this park will be here for future generations to enjoy.

The park currently offers two ongoing interpretive programs. “Enchanted Evenings at Bottomless Lakes” is a series of programs held on the Lea Lake beach every Saturday evening from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The programming is advertised weekly with posters in the park, as well as newspaper and radio announcements. The topics are generally nature- oriented but may also involve such popular presentations as the Roswell Folklorico Dancers. The second continuing effort, the raptor rehabilitation program, has opened the doors to area schools and civic organizations. Scarlett, a non-releasable Red-tail Hawk, is used in the presentations. The role that parks plays in the lives of all plants and animals is emphasized in each program. Programs are also done for visiting groups in the park.

A bird list and a roadside flower list are currently available. Two interpretive brochures are tentatively scheduled through marketing, including a bird brochure in FY01 for a cost of \$500 and a wildflower brochure in FY02 for a cost of \$500.

A natural and cultural resource inventory is planned for FY01. This inventory will help in the preparation of an overall Interpretive Master Plan for FY 02, which will help in planning future programs, exhibits and literature for BLSP. The inventory will also help facilitate the renovations of the Lea Lake Recreation Building and water tower planned in FY 01 and help in interpreting CCC history. The remodeling of the Visitor Center exhibits is planned for FY02 and will include information about local geology, natural history and cultural history.

A new interpretive trail is proposed in FY03 at a cost of \$15,000. Interpretive panels will be installed along this trail as part of the project. It will be funded potentially as a Trails or an Inmate project.

E. FACILITIES/STRUCTURES

Visitor Center

The Visitor Center was constructed in 1978 at the north end of the park. It has received minor renovations since its construction and is in good shape. The visitor center houses the park office as well as interpretive displays on the park. The displays are outdated and do not meet ADA requirements. The office is too small to adequately serve the staff and park operations. The best option here would be to renovate the interior, update interpretive displays, and relocate the office. The office could be relocated to the Lea Lake recreation building during that renovation or a new office constructed that would be tied to the recreation building. The interpretive displays are planned for renovation in FY02 and will cost \$50,000 from CIP.

Campgrounds

The park currently has a total of 64 developed campsites. Of this total, 26 have electric and water hookups and 6 have electric, water and sewer hookups. All of the 64 total sites offer a shelter and table on a concrete pad and a barbecue grill.

There are two group shelters in the park, which are occasionally used for camping. The first, called the Rock Shelter, is located in the north part of the park away from other facilities and lakes. It is a covered group area with rock walls on two sides. It attracts groups that prefer to be away from other visitors so as not to disturb them with their activities. Water is available here and a drip system feeds endemic trees that were planted in 1996. Barbecue grills are available. The second group shelter is located in the Lea Lake day use area. It has become popular for organizational and large family groups. It offers six eight-foot tables and three large barbecue grills under a covered shelter. Installation of electric and water service here would serve the Lea Lake Day use area. These services will be installed in FY01 at a cost of \$750 and \$250, respectively, from the RV Electric and AOB.

The campgrounds are divided into three areas. The Lea Lake hook-up campground is the only one that is designated strictly for camping only. It has 32 sites with hookups and three without. The Lea Lake day use area has 21 sites and doubles for camping and day use. The lower lakes campground consists of eight sites spread throughout the smaller lakes area in the north of the park and also doubles as day use.

All the campsites are in good shape. They are either new or recently refurbished. The Lea Lake hookup campground was expanded in 1995-96 from 10 sites to 32. This is adequate for now. The lower lakes could support another 4-5 sites but it is not critical at this time.

Lea Lake Recreation Building

The CCC in 1933 and 1934 (see Section C regarding significance) constructed this historic structure, along with the beach portals. An addition was later completed on the main part of the building itself. In 1993 the exterior of the recreation building and the portals were renovated. All the work was done so as to maintain the historical integrity of this structure. Although the exterior remains in good condition, more work will need to be done within the next five years as the original, hand-hewn timbers deteriorate.

The interior of this building is in extremely poor condition. This includes the window frames and doorways. The interior design is not conducive to the type of recreational use it receives today. It must be renovated to make it an attractive and functional facility. There is \$500,000 allocated for this remodeling scheduled for FY01. This remodel will include the Lea Lake Tower, mentioned below. Historic research will be conducted to aid in this remodel and the State Historic Preservation Division will be consulted in the process.

Lea Lake Tower

The CCC in 1933 and 1934 (see Section C regarding significance) also constructed this historic structure. Its original purpose was to support an elevated water tank that supplied the recreation building. It is no longer needed in this capacity as the park is on a water system from the City of Roswell. Due to its historic value, it will be renovated to serve as an observation tower and CCC museum. Historic research will be conducted to aid in this remodel and the State Historic Preservation Division will be consulted in the process.

Concessions

The New Mexico Commission for the Blind has first option on all concession activities at state-owned facilities. The last time the Commission operated a concession here was during the summer of 1992, when it had a restaurant in the Lea Lake recreation building. Lower

visitation during the week made it difficult for this operation to be financially successful, and the Commission has not staffed the restaurant since.

The "Friends of Bottomless Lakes" operates a small gift shop at the Lea Lake recreation building. It supplies souvenir items and an assortment of items commonly forgotten by the visitor such as sunscreen and insect repellent. It also provides soft drinks and snacks through vending machines. The Commission for the Blind receives a percentage of revenues from the vending machines.

Boat Docks

Lea Lake has a small three-slip dock. It is in poor condition and not of adequate size. It is used for the small patrol boat (14' Jon boat) and the rental equipment (four pedal cruisers). The park is slowly increasing the number of rental boats, as budget allows, in order to meet the huge public demand for this service.

The dock will need to be expanded in FY01 and will cost \$50,000 from Boating and CIP. The optimum plan for this expansion would be to build a dock in a corral configuration that could be fenced on the outer edges to protect rental equipment from theft. A Butler building would be placed on the dock or nearby to store paddleboards and personal flotation devices (PFD). Visitors would then rent equipment right at the dock as opposed to across the beach at the recreation building.

Bathhouses

The main bathhouse at Lea Lake is divided into two sections. The beach side has men's and women's toilets and showers, and serves the day use public. The opposite side faces the campground, has men's and women's toilets and showers and serves the campers. The beach side is closed during the winter months.

This bathhouse requires renovation. Although the plumbing was renovated in 1993, it is not energy efficient. It is the source of many visitor complaints as hot water must travel through many feet of pipe before arriving at the shower head. The system was originally designed to circulate hot water through the chase constantly, but that concept was never implemented. This facility requires renovation into a single men and women's bathhouse and a small office for equipment rental. The facility would be closed during the winter months.

An additional bathhouse was built in the hookup campground in 1999, exclusively for the use of campers. This structure must be closed and winterized during the cooler months, as there is no heating system. Staff must research the possibility of heating this bathhouse as it is the newest and most accessible for the campers. The older bathhouse at Lea Lake could then be closed during the winter months.

Vault Toilets

The park has eight, single unit vault toilets, all of which are located in the lower lakes area. Six of these vaults were installed in 1995 and two in 1999. All are in good condition.

Shop

The shop was constructed in 1994. It is in good shape; but not of adequate size to accommodate expanding park needs as the park is also now serving as a regional outlet for heavy equipment. The existing facility has two covered bays and three and one-half interior bays. There is also a fenced yard.

Staff Housing

There are three Division-owned mobile homes in the park, one 1996 model and two 1999 models. All are 28' x 52' Double wide. One of these trailers is cooled by a pair of evaporative coolers, and needs to be upgraded with a refrigerated air conditioning system. There are two other mobile home sites in the park where employees have located their personally owned homes.

Lea Lake Overflow

Due to the high level of spring activity in Lea Lake staff must release water from the lake through an underground culvert. The current gate controls are marginally functional and will require replacement in FY02, which will cost \$5,000 from AOB.

F. EQUIPMENT

Equipment and Vehicles

BLSP serves as a central clearinghouse for regional equipment. This equipment includes a 5-yard dump truck, a front-end loader, a backhoe and an equipment trailer. The clearinghouse program is new and it will be necessary to enlarge the shop and shop yard. A two-to three-bay enlargement of the shop building, substantial enlargement of the yard and a Morgan building is needed to adequately store and maintain the park and regional equipment. The enlargement will take place in FY04 and cost \$20,000 from INM.

For the most part, park equipment is in good shape. The exceptions are the utility trailer and walk-behind mower. Both of these items require replacement. It should be noted that any small engine equipment might require unforeseen repair or replacement.

The park operates a fleet of four vehicles. Three of these are dedicated to law enforcement needs as well as basic maintenance. A fifth pickup is a planned addition for maintenance duties. Vehicles are replaced according to SPD mileage and age standards.

Communications

The park communication system consists of telephone, radio, fax and computer systems.

The telephone system is comprised of state phones and public pay phones. There are currently four state phone lines. The superintendent's phone line is located in state owned housing. The number is listed in the phone book as Bottomless Lakes Manager Residence. There are two other voice lines. The number listed in the phone book for BLSP is located at the Visitor Center, and an extension to this line is located at the manager's residence. Long distance personal calls on the numbers located in state owned residences must be made on personal phone cards. The other voice line is located at the Visitor Center, Lea Lake recreation building and the shop. This line doubles as the fax line. There is also a line used solely for the computer located at the Visitor Center. There are two public pay phones located at Lea Lake recreation area. A third pay phone should be located at the Visitor Center, as there is no pay phone currently available at this end of the park. In addition, at least one more voice line for park operations is needed.

Radio communication consists of the following: three base stations, located at the Visitor Center, Lea Lake recreation building and the shop; four mobile radios located in park vehicles, and seven portables assigned to Superintendent, Manager, three Rangers and two

camp hosts. One of the mobile radios is an old RCA that functions only marginally and requires replacement, as parts are not available for repair. Four of the six portable radios will also soon require replacement, as they are old and require frequent repair.

Emergency numbers including the superintendent and manager's numbers are posted at all park phone and public phone locations.

Office Equipment

Current office equipment is generally adequate. The copy machine is in good condition, as is the computer laser printer. One of the two computers is in excellent condition, however the second is essentially obsolete and should be replaced.

G. TRANSPORTATION and ACCESS

Roads & Parking

The road system and parking areas are adequate to service all areas of the park. Roadways that served little or no importance have been blocked off and are slowly returning to a natural state of vegetation. Although adequate to service the park, the roadways and parking areas are for the most part in poor condition. Base course applications to dirt roadways and parking areas will be applied from FY01-05 and cost \$750 a year from AOB.

State Road 409 provides access to the park from U.S. Highway 380, makes a loop through the park, and returns back to Highway 380. It is maintained by the State Highway Department and is in fair condition.

The lower lakes loop was paved in 1991 and is still in good condition. There are two access points to this roadway, one at the visitor center and one at Devil's Inkwel Lake. Gates will be replaced at both these points; the first at the Visitor Center will be replaced in FY04 (\$2,500-CIP), and the other at Devil's Inkwel in FY05 also for \$2,500 from CIP. The other roads and parking areas in the lower lakes area are dirt and in fair condition. Traffic bollards will be installed in some parking areas, such as at Devil's Inkwel Lake. These will cost \$1,500 from AOB in FY02.

The roads and parking areas at Lea Lake are in poor condition and require some work. The day use loop and parking have been base coursed, but the nature of the soil in this area basically swallows the base course, allowing the roads to become rutted and muddy even with very little precipitation. It is unknown whether an adequate compaction could be obtained to pave in this area. Repeated base course application may be the only way to keep this area in fair condition. The same holds true in the Lea Lake hookup campground; however, the unstable soil condition is not quite so severe here. The paved parking lot at the Lea Lake recreation building is in very poor condition. This lot has an adjacent dirt overflow parking area that is also quite poor. The two lots need to be combined and paved.

The roadways that lead to park residences are adequate but could use additional base course applications.

The Lea Lake Scenic Overlook parking lot is in poor condition. It will require patching and resealing, which will be done in FY04 for \$5,000 from CIP. Access gates will be installed in FY03 for \$5,000 from CIP so as to prohibit unwelcome nighttime activities.

Trails

The park currently has no developed trail system. All of the lakes can be easily reached from parking areas with a very short walk.

There is, however, a need to develop a trail between Lea Lake in the south part of the park and the lower lakes in the north. This is a distance of approximately one mile. Currently several "volunteer" trails are serving this purpose. A single trail that paralleled the base of the bluff would be ideal. This would also serve to discourage the use of the volunteer trails and therefore cut back on erosion problems and litter. This proposed trail should be signed for interpretation of plants and wildlife and wheelchair accessible for at least half of its length, if not all of it.

G. UTILITIES

The park's water service comes from the City of Roswell. In 1994 SPD put in new main lines from the point of service near Roswell to the park, an approximate distance of nine miles. The park is responsible for the maintenance of this line. Two private landholders receive service from the line in return for allowing the SPD to cross their private land with the new line. The park on a quarterly basis bills them for water use at the same rate the City charges the park.

Interior PVC service lines in the park have slowly been replaced with polyethylene pipe. There are no major trouble spots at this time. The original 10 hookup sites at Lea Lake were renovated in 1998, with new polyethylene water lines and freezeless faucets.

The park's wastewater systems use septic tanks and a package plant. There are four septic tanks in the park and all are new within the last three years. A package plant services the Lea Lake recreation area. The bathhouse, campground, and dump station gravity flow through collection lines to a lift station that in turn pumps the wastewater to the package plant for treatment.

There are two areas in the collection system that commonly have problems with clogging. The first is under the bathhouse. These lines are very old and probably no longer have a smooth, clear, interior surface. This factor, along with the large quantities of sand from the beach that swimmers bring into the showers, causes the clogging. There are sand traps in the showers, but their effectiveness is minimal. The second problem area is the line that services the six campsites with sewer hook-ups and ties into the main collection line at the dump station. The unstable soil of this area causes line settling.

The package plant is approximately 20 years old and in poor condition. Some of the problems are due to its design and would be difficult to overcome. Such problems are in the return activated sludge, poor mixing in the aeration basin, and no way to remove waste sludge from the clarifier. The blowers and electric panels are original equipment and require replacement. They are marginally functional. Three out of four sides of the plant are corroding through at water line. Total replacement with a modern package plant system or a wetlands will take place in FY04 and cost \$75,000 from CIP.

The Central Valley Electric Cooperative supplies electric service to the park. Most of this service is above ground. An underground service system is more desirable for aesthetic reasons.

Electric renovation of the original ten hook-up campsites at Lea Lake was completed in 1998. The Visitor Center, Lea Lake recreation building, and manager residence all need some electrical repair work.

A local vendor supplies propane by price agreement. The shop and each bathhouse are equipped with 500-gallon tanks, and a 1,000-gallon motor fuel tank is located at the shop.

V. BUDGET and STAFFING

A. CURRENT BUDGET

In the past several years, park expenditures have averaged just under \$273,000. Expenditures peaked in FY98 at almost \$332,000. This was due primarily to a major expansion of the hookup campground.

TABLE 7 BOTTOMLESS LAKES EXPENDITURES		
Fiscal Year	Expenditures	Budget Allocated
99	\$ 306,762.13	\$ 304,569.00
98	\$ 331,757.45	\$ 302,600.00
97	\$ 237,628.41	\$ 282,141.00
96	\$ 244,140.00	\$ 237,160.00
95	\$ 243,528.00	\$ 233,188.00
Total	\$ 1,363,815.99	\$ 1,359,658.00
Average	\$ 272,763.20	\$ 271,931.60

STAFFING

The park has a permanent fulltime staff of five employees. The permanent staff consists of one Park Superintendent, one Park Manager, two Park Ranger II's and one Park Ranger I. Seasonal staff consists of a seasonal Ranger I, three seasonal laborer positions and five lifeguard positions. Seasonal hires generally run from mid-April through Labor Day weekend. The park utilizes volunteers at every opportunity. Volunteer positions can vary greatly but generally involve working the Visitor Center, serving as camp host, assisting with park maintenance and special events.

Staffing levels are inadequate to provide the level of service desired. Efforts are underway to increase lifeguard staff to six positions for improved visitor safety. Increased visitation and recreation opportunities will ultimately require the addition of one permanent Ranger I position.

Volunteer Program

Volunteers are an essential part of this park's operations. The park relies heavily on camp hosts and the "Friends of Bottomless Lakes," in particular, but remains open to all volunteer possibilities.

In the future, staff plans to move more of the Visitor Center, office and Lea Lake concession type duties into the hands of volunteers. To assist us with this goal we will construct recreational vehicle sites for volunteers in the park that offer better accommodations than those found in the campground. Two locations each providing two camp host sites have been identified: one behind the Visitor Center to be constructed for \$3,500 in FY01 DGF and AOB, and one behind the Lea Lake recreation building where two more will be constructed in FY03 at a cost of \$10,000. Other sites remain possibilities as well. Other accommodations such as a volunteer/staff laundry may be established. Staff will also be looking more to the local communities for volunteer support.

If the volunteer program is to expand and be successful, there must be a symbiotic relationship. Volunteers will be included in staff and safety meetings, where their input will be valued. They will be well trained by staff members and through other training programs where appropriate.

"Friends of Bottomless Lakes"

The "Friends of Bottomless Lakes" was established as a volunteer support group in 1993. It has established bylaws and elected board members consisting of a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary-treasurer. "Friends" membership varies, but there are generally about 10 members.

In 1998, the "Friends" became a registered nonprofit organization with the State of New Mexico. Income is generated through the sale of souvenir type items at the Lea Lake recreation building during the summer months and at the Visitor Center year-round. Some revenue also comes in the form of donations. All monies generated go back into the park in the form of approved projects, equipment, etc. All expenditures must be approved by the Park Superintendent and by committee member vote. Projects require an approved park project form.

It is the goal of the "Friends" to expand into larger membership. This would allow for a large volunteer base and expansion into more revenue-producing areas. It is possible that the committee might someday take over the rental equipment from the park. This would then direct all the rental money back to the park and free park staff for other duties.

Projects that the "Friends" consider for implementation are generally service-oriented. Currently, the construction of a group shelter in the hook-up campground is the goal. This would help to attract the big RV groups that like a common meeting area. "Friends" is planning this project for FY01 at a cost of \$10,000. The shelter would have water and

electric service, utilizing \$1,000 from AOB and RV/Electric. Interpretive trails are another possibility being considered.

The “Friends” basically take on those projects for which the park has no budget or staffing or both. The group is an incredible asset to this park now and will continue to be so.

Inmate Program

The inmate program has brought this park farther than any other single program. It comes with budget and manpower, an unbeatable combination. Tentatively scheduled projects are as follows:

FY 01	Convert old Ranger residence behind Visitor Center into two camp host sites	\$3,500
	Rework old sewer line from site 6 under Lea Lake parking lot to dump station; remove island in paved parking lot and patch and reseal pavement	\$30,000
FY 02	Pave dirt overflow parking lot at Lea Lake, and construct post and rail fence around border of lot	\$30,000
FY 03	Construct interpretive trail from Lea Lake to Pasture Lake	\$15,000
	Replace/augment sand on Lea Lake beach	\$6,000
	Construct two camp host sites adjacent to recreation building at site of old shop yard	\$10,000
FY 04	Expand shop yard, add four covered bays for regional equipment	\$20,000
FY 05	Expand playground at Lea Lake	\$20,000

Other Programs

There are many other programs available. One such program the park utilizes is the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (SYETP). These are young people who work in the park and are paid by the Department of Labor. It is a summer program that usually lasts about 6 weeks, depending on funding. Other good programs such as Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and governmental interns have not been utilized here due to a lack of park staff to administer the programs. The door will remain open to these and other opportunities.

APPENDIX A: Current Park Facilities

CAMPGROUNDS

<u>Campground Facilities</u>	<u>Location/Sites</u>	<u>Bathroom</u>
Hookup Campground	Located on south side of Lea Lake 6 sites w/water, electric, and sewer 26 sites w/water and electric 3 developed sites (no hookups)	Restroom with showers
Lower Lakes	Located in the center of the park 8 developed sites 4 water spigots throughout area	6 vault toilets
“Day Use” Area Bathhouse	Located on north side of Lea Lake Available for day use or camping 21 developed sites	Access to “Beach” with showers

Other Park Facilities

- 1 Shop
- 2 Group Shelters
- 1 Recreation Building
- 1 Dump Station
- 1 Boat Dock
- 1 CCC Water Tower
- 1 Visitor Center
- 1 Scenic Overlook
- 3 Staff Residences
- 1 Sewage Lift Station
- 1 Sewage Package Plant

APPENDIX B: List of Equipment

Communications

6 Handheld Radios
3 Base Station Radios
4 Mobile Radios

Field

Mountain Bike
Mustang Jetter
Riding Lawn Mower
Portable Arc Welder

Office

Panafax UF332 Facsimile Machine
Konica 1290RE Copy Machine
DTK Computer
NEC PowerMate Computer
Hewlett Packard IIIP Laser Printer

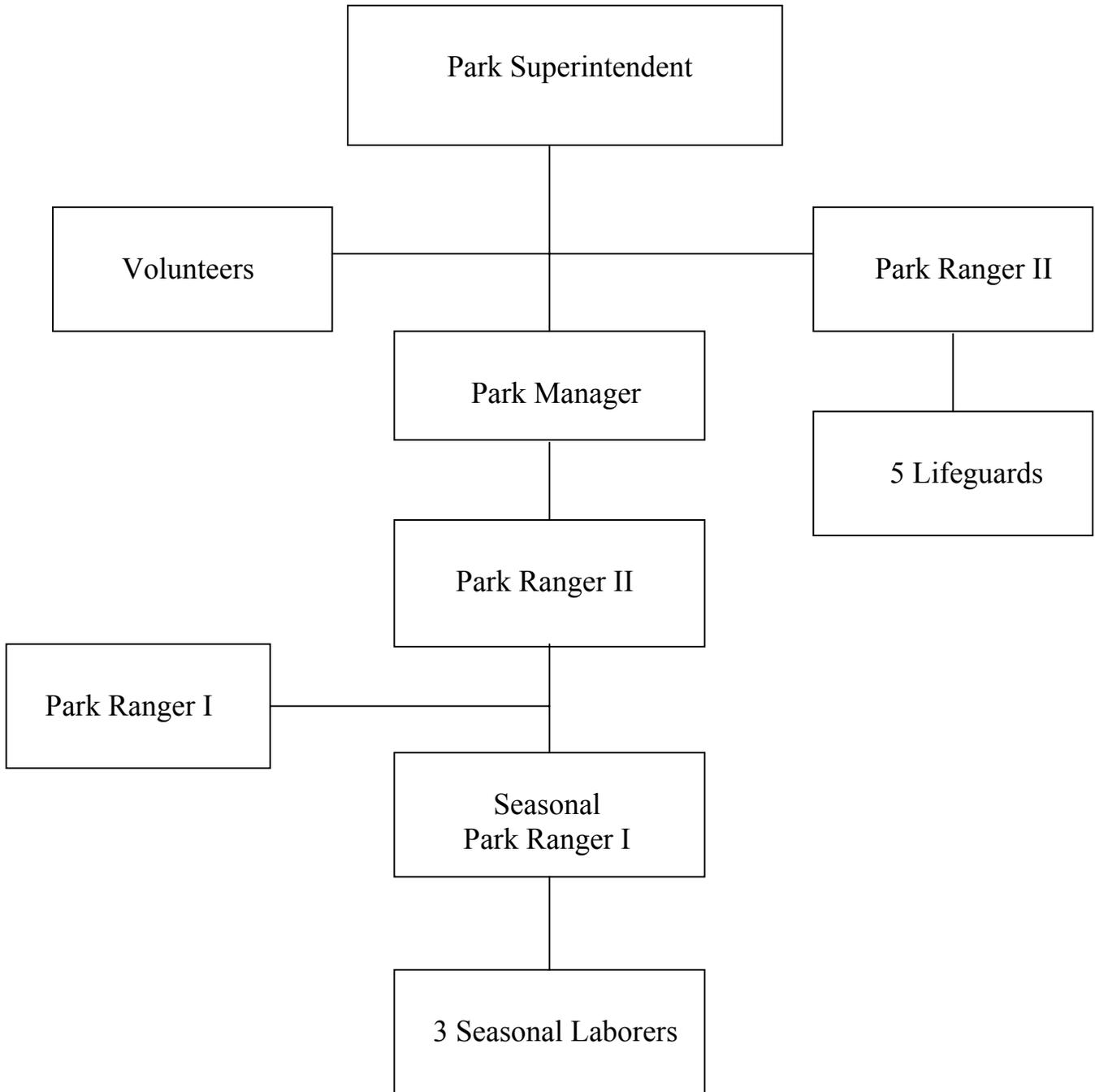
Vehicles, Heavy Equipment, Boats, and Trailers

Utility trailer, no license plate
1986 Ford Backhoe, Model M555
1992 Dodge W15 Pickup, License Plate G05774
1997 Ford F250 Pickup, License Plate G23757
1997 Chevy Pickup, License Plate G23529
1997 Boat Trailer, License Plate G32199
1997 John Deere Tractor, Model 1070
1998 Chevy Blazer, License Plate G34929
Smoker Craft Jonboat with trailer
Pedal Cruisers, Quantity: 4

Regional Equipment Based @ Bottomless Lakes

1979 Chevy C70 Dumptruck, License Plate G04840
Pipe Trailer, License Plate G17131
John Deere Loader, 544B
1998 MCI Equipment Trailer, License Plate G40681

APPENDIX C: Bottomless Lakes Staff Organization Chart



APPENDIX D: Legal Descriptions

Acreege Owned By New Mexico State Park Division

Section 13-11-25	N2-1-AC
Section 16-11-26	E2-Lots 1 2 3 4
Section 21-11-26	NE4-NE4SE4-Lots 1 2 3 4
Section 22-11-26	W2SW4-SE4SE4SW4
Section 27-11-26	E2NW4-SW4NE4-W2SE4-NE4SW4
Section 34-11-26	W2-W2E2

Acreege Leased From State Land Office

Section 16:	Pt. NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$, Pt. NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Pt. Lot 3, Lot 4 (153.85 acres)
Section 21:	E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (120 acres)
Section 27:	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ (40 acres)
Total acres:	313.85

Appendix E

Cultural Resource Protection Laws

The following cultural resource protection laws are applicable to Bottomless Lakes State Park. Personnel can reference the Cultural Resources Guidelines for New Mexico State Parks for more detail regarding the documentation, protection, and preservation of cultural resources.

Federal

Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001). This act protects Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. It prohibits the sale, purchase or use or transport for sale or profit, the human remains of a Native American. The law outlines the procedures in the event of an inadvertent discovery of a Native American burial as well as the relinquishment of control of such items to the appropriate Native American group.

National Register of Historic Places, 36 C.F.R. Part 60. This is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. These properties must have historic significance and integrity and must meet at least one of the following criteria: Association with significant events; association with important persons; distinctive design or physical characteristics; or potential to yield information important in history or prehistory.

State

New Mexico Cultural Properties Act (NMSA 1978, §18-6-1 to 18-6-17). This act recognizes that the historical and cultural heritage of the state as one of the state's most valued and important assets. It indicates that the neglect, desecration and destruction of historical and cultural sites, structures, places and objects results in an irreplaceable loss to the public. It establishes the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (HPD) to maintain the New Mexico Register of Cultural Properties (similar to the National Register) and to review of state projects to determine effect upon significant historic properties. This law prohibits unauthorized excavation, injury or damage to cultural properties located on state land. It requires excavation and burial permits and assesses criminal and/or civil penalties for unlawful excavation of cultural properties or burials. Finally, this law requires that site location remain confidential.

New Mexico Prehistoric and Historic Sites Preservation Act (NMSA 1989, §18-8-1 to 18-8-8). This law states that no public funds of the state shall be spent on any program that requires the use of any portion of land from a significant prehistoric or historic site unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative and unless the project includes all possible planning to preserve and protect the cultural property.

New Mexico Cultural Properties Protection Act (NMSA 1993, §18-16A-1 to 18-6A-6). This law requires state agencies to establish a system of professional surveys of cultural properties on state lands. State agencies are required to cooperate with the Historic Preservation Division to ensure that cultural properties are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed.