

**CLAYTON LAKE STATE PARK**  
**Management and Development Plan**

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**Director's Approval** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Management and Development Plan**

**Cabinet Secretary's Approval** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **PREFACE**

Each state park administered and managed by the State Parks Division of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department is required to establish a Management and Development Plan. {Reference: 19.5.3 NMAC}. 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 State Parks Division's Policy and Procedures Manual}.

The planning process for Park Management and Development Plans consists of: establishing a planning team for each state park, conducting an on-site inspection/assessment of the park, 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 draft Plan for the park, soliciting public input on the draft Plan and revising it as appropriate, approval of the revised Plan by the State Park Division Director and the Cabinet Secretary; and implementation of the approved Plan by the Park Manager/Superintendent.

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## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

New Mexico State Parks Division's (Division) mission is to manage the state park system to enrich the lives of New Mexicans and visitors to the state. At Clayton Lake State Park (CLSP) this mission is fulfilled through the protection and enhancement of the park's natural resources, and by providing a safe and appealing setting for use of the prairie region and its lake ecosystem for camping, fishing, bird watching, interpretive opportunities and a variety of family related activities. The overall goal is to become the premier destination for all who desire an educational and/or recreational experience, with an emphasis on paleontology, astronomy, bird watching and quality fishing. CLSP also strives to maintain a good working relationship with various entities, such as the Town of Clayton, Chamber of Commerce, area schools and other organizations. This plan sets forth the specific objectives, policies, improvements and changes we will strive to implement through fiscal years 2005-2009 in order to achieve our goals and fulfill the Division's mission.

### **B. SUMMARY of PROPOSED ACTIONS and POLICIES**

#### **1. PROPOSED ACTIONS**

Tables 1-5 provide a detailed list of the proposed actions for the FY05-FY09 planning period. The purpose of this Management Plan is to establish the overall direction of visitor and resource management at CLSP. The plan should be used as the basis for ongoing, day-to-day management decisions and actions and long-term capital improvements. The plan translates Division policy into courses of desired resource conditions and program direction at CLSP. It is intended to be a working/living document for continuous use and updating by park staff.

#### **2. POLICY DIRECTIVES**

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

- 1) At this time, there are no concessions established within the park, although the recently formed "Friends of Clayton Lake" volunteer groups are planning to sell ice, firewood and other items in the near future. The New Mexico State Parks Marketing Section is also developing plans to offer various educational items for sale in the Visitor Center.
- 2) Recreational boating is allowed at trolling speed (no-wake) only, and is restricted to March 1 through October 31.
- 3) Fishing is allowed March 1 through October 31.

4) The use of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) is prohibited.

**TABLE 1**  
**Action Plan Overview**  
**FISCAL YEAR 05**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Time Frame (FY)</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>Page #</b>
Resource Protection	1	Close unauthorized roads.	05	\$1,500	AOB	19-20
	2	Remove Rock Garden site at water and close to vehicular traffic.	05	\$1,000	AOB	24
	3	“No-Man’s Land” – block vehicle access on N. side, maintain access on S. side.	05	\$1,000	AOB	24
	4	Designate parking for anglers on N. Point and Chicano Beach.	05	\$1,000	AOB	17
	5	Remove shelters 18, 19 and 33.	05	\$500	AOB	24
	Develop/Maintain Facilities	6	Landscape, create drainage and nature trail at Visitor Center.	05	\$15,000	TRAILS, AOB, CIP
		<b>Total Proposed Expenditures</b>		<b>\$20,000</b>		

Funding Source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget – Parks Division); **BOAT** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Fuel Tax/Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **DJ** (Dingell-Johnson: NM Department of Game and 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** Electric (RV); **TBD** (To Be Determined).

**TABLE 2**  
**Action Plan Overview**  
**FISCAL YEAR 06**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Time Frame (FY)</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Page #</b>
Resource Protection	1	Dirt roads throughout the park require upgrade and repairs. Sites need delineation.	06	\$40,000	CIP	24
Develop/Maintain Facilities	2	Add walkway spurs and top rail on boardwalk.	06	\$15,000	TRAILS	22
	3	Repave access road to boat ramp.	06	\$100,000	DJ	25
Interpretation/Education	4	Design/Install plant identification markers along Dinosaur Trail, upgrade boardwalk signs.	06	\$9,000	TRAILS	23
	5	Create uniform signage throughout the park.	06	\$3,000	CIP	24
		<b>Total Proposed Expenditures</b>		<b>\$167,000</b>		

Funding Source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget – Parks Division); **BOAT** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Fuel Tax/Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **DJ** (Dingell-Johnson: NM Department of Game and 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** Electric (RV); **TBD** (To Be Determined).

**TABLE 3**  
**Action Plan Overview**  
**FISCAL YEAR 07**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Time Frame (FY)</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Page #</b>
Develop/ Maintain Facilities	1	Add walls for windbreak. Delineate parking and landscape.	07	\$10,000	CIP	23
	2	Create Group Camping area with Observatory	07	\$85,000	CIP	16
	3	Create electric/water hookup.	07	\$10,000	CIP	23
Interpretation/ Education	4	Install Interpretive Kiosk at Nature Trail.	07	\$1,500	TRAILS	23
		<b>Total Proposed Expenditures</b>		<b>\$106,500</b>		

Funding Source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget – Parks Division); **BOAT** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Fuel Tax/Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **DJ** (Dingell-Johnson: NM Department of Game and 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** Electric (RV); **TBD** (To Be Determined).

**TABLE 4  
Action Plan Overview  
FISCAL YEAR 08**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Time Frame (FY)</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Page #</b>
Develop/ Maintain Facilities	2	Begin replacing shelters throughout the park.	08	\$96,000	CIP	24
	1	Install solar lights at pay station	08	\$1,000	CIP	26
		<b>Total Proposed Expenditures</b>		<b>\$97,000</b>		

Funding Source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget – Parks Division); **BOAT** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Fuel Tax/Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **DJ** (Dingell-Johnson: NM Department of Game and 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** Electric (RV); **TBD** (To Be Determined).

**TABLE 5**  
**Action Plan Overview**  
**FISCAL YEAR 09**

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Time Frame (FY)</b>	<b>Estimated Costs</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Page #</b>
Develop/Maintain Facilities	1	Complete shelter replacements.	09	\$14,400	CIP	24
	2	Remove overhead power lines at boat ramp, add solar lighting.	09	\$2,000	BOAT	26
	3	Create accessible parking at Chicano Beach toilet.	09	\$1,000	CIP	24
Resource Protection	5	Conduct cultural resource survey	09	\$21,000	TBD	20
		<b>Total Proposed Expenditures</b>		<b>\$38,400</b>		

Funding Source: **AOB** (Annual Operating Budget – Parks Division); **BOAT** (Boating Excise Tax/Motor Fuel Tax/Coast Guard Grant); **BOR** (Bureau of Reclamation Funds); **CIP** (Capital Improvements Program-Parks Division); **DJ** (Dingell-Johnson: NM Department of Game and 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** Electric (RV); **TBD** (To Be Determined).

## **II. PARK DESCRIPTION**

### **A. BACKGROUND**

The New Mexico State Game Commission created Clayton Lake as habitat for migratory waterfowl. Construction of a dam across Seneca (or Cinegilla) creek began in 1954, and was completed approximately two years later. Until 1965, the Game Commission and Union County jointly maintained the lake. In 1965, efforts by the Mayor and Board of Trustees in Clayton, the Union County Wildlife Association and many others paid off, and on August 10, 1965, the New Mexico State Park and Recreation Commission signed an agreement with the Game and Fish Commission, creating CLSP. Development of the park facilities began in 1967, and included twenty camping units, six toilets, a comfort station and road improvements.

The State Park and Recreation Commission held a formal Dedication Ceremony on June 28, 1968.

On October 11, 1978, the State Parks Division signed another formal agreement with the Game and Fish Commission, authorizing construction of water treatment facilities and other improvements.

### **B. KEY FEATURES**

CLSP is located in the extreme northeast corner of New Mexico, twelve miles northwest of the Town of Clayton, at an elevation of approximately 5,050 feet. The lake, which averages 170 surface acres, is surrounded by approximately 402 acres of parkland. Damming up Seneca Creek, which is actually a series of seeps and springs, and runs only seasonally, created the lake. These seeps and springs are not adequate to keep up with the rate of evaporation. As a result, the lake is almost entirely dependent on rain run-off to maintain or increase the water level. In fact, after completion of the dam in the 1950s, it took up to ten years or longer to reach its present level. However, because of the relatively large watershed, well over one hundred square miles, the lake's water level can rise dramatically in a very short time.

The costs of creating Clayton Lake, with the purchase of land and the construction of the dam were over \$407,000. At the time, it was the largest project ever attempted by the NM Game and Fish Department. To allow for downstream users to continue having water (in accordance with NM Water Law), the dam was constructed with two "French Drains" to allow water to flow through the dam, exiting at the release gate on the rear of the dam. This has caused some concern to some visitors, who believe the dam is leaking. This is not the case. Game and Fish officials recently located two of the original engineers who designed the dam. These engineers have recently inspected the dam, and proclaim it in very

good shape, with the drains working as planned. However, Game and Fish has begun monitoring the drainage, to note any increase in the flow.

**C. RECREATION**

The primary recreational activities at CLSP are fishing, boating, hiking, camping, picnicking and bird watching. The lake is very popular with anglers, as it offers great trout, catfish and bass fishing, as well as great walleye fishing. Four state record walleyes have been caught at Clayton Lake since 1981; the current record of 16 pounds 9 ounces walleye was caught here in 1989. Fishing and trolling speed only boating are allowed from March 1 through October 31. During the winter months, the lake is home to thousands of geese, plus various other waterfowl, and bald eagles, which draw many birdwatchers. The park is also home to many other species of wildlife, including deer, bear, turkeys, coyotes, bobcat and occasional elk and mountain lions.

Another significant and popular feature of CLSP is the Dinosaur track way. This series of over 500 dinosaur tracks is considered by many paleontologists as one of the most significant in the world. Paleontologists and tourists from throughout the country, as well as the world visit the tracks.

Park visitors occasionally enjoy horseback riding, although most visitors who bring horses to CLSP either use the park as a base for riding trips on the nearby Kiowa National Grasslands. Visitors are allowed to camp with horses, although they are required to clean up their campsite. No watering stations or corrals are provided for horses.

Biking is allowed on the Dinosaur Trail, but not on the Nature Trail, as this trail is relatively confined, at times is a wetland and used by visitors wanting a more secluded and less developed experience.

**III. VISITATION and REVENUE**

**A. VISITATION**

**TABLE 6  
ANNUAL VISITATION**

<b>FY</b>	<b>VISITATION</b>
<b>99</b>	<b>27,254</b>
<b>00</b>	<b>16,763</b>
<b>01</b>	<b>7,909</b>
<b>02</b>	<b>40,015</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>37,070</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>129,011</b>

To accurately determine visitor use trends, patterns and interests, a formal survey of visitors is ongoing. Currently, one visitation counter is located at the only entrance/exit to the park. A large number of park visitors are from the “Five-State” area (New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado). Many of them come here on a regular basis, year after year. Many locals also use the park and lake both for fishing and family outings. There are also a large number of Scout Troops and school groups who camp here – this indicates a need for a separate group camping area. This will consist of removing sites #27, 28 and 29, replacing with a group shelter, adding a double vault toilet and limiting access by gating off the area in **FY07**. This project will also include the construction of a permanent astronomy observatory, to increase the educational opportunities at CLSP. **Estimated cost of this project is \$85,000 and funded by CIP.**

CLSP receives the most visitation in the spring and summer months (May through September), with a sharp drop off after the closing of the fishing and boating season. By far, the busiest weekend of the year is for the annual Trout Derby (held the first weekend in May), followed by Memorial Day weekend and Easter Sunday.

## **B. MARKETING**

The New Mexico State Parks marketing section has in recent years started actively advertising State Parks nationwide, in both print and on-air advertisements. In addition, all State Parks have been conducting daily random surveys of park visitors, to determine points of origin and what draws visitors to New Mexico Parks in general.

The marketing section is developing a line of items that could be sold in the Visitor Center, promoting New Mexico State Parks, including such items as tee-shirts, coffee mugs and educational books.

Clayton Lake is becoming well known nation wide in the paleontology community for the extensive dinosaur track way located here. CLSP has become a destination for numerous colleges and universities who bring students to CLSP on a yearly basis to study these tracks. In addition, drawn by the dark night skies, more astronomy clubs are making CLSP their destination for weekend star parties.

## C. REVENUE

**TABLE 7**  
**ANNUAL SELF-GENERATED REVENUES**

<b>FY</b>	<b>Self-Generated Revenues</b>
<b>99</b>	<b>37,625</b>
<b>00</b>	<b>38,467</b>
<b>01</b>	<b>33,826</b>
<b>02</b>	<b>64,088</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>27,561</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>201,566</b>

CLSP generates an average of \$40,313 annually. The main source of revenue is self-generated fees, which include day-use, camping and group shelter fees. Park fees are collected at one of the three self-pay stations or by staff field collections. Camping fees generate the most revenues.

## IV. EXISTING OPERATIONS/FACILITIES and PROPOSED ACTIONS

### A. OPERATIONS and MANAGEMENT

#### **Lands/Realty**

In 1954, the New Mexico State Game Commission obtained the land to construct Clayton Lake, with the intent of establishing habitat for migratory waterfowl. In 1965, an agreement between the State Game Commission and the State Park and Recreation Commission to develop facilities for a state park, to include camping sites, toilets and road improvements was signed. CLSP was formally dedicated in June 1968. In October 1978, the agreement was amended to allow for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities and the construction of a boat ramp. This agreement was to remain in effect for the period of 25 years. This agreement stipulates that the Park and Recreation Division may “develop, operate and maintain a park and recreation area at Clayton Lake with nominal fees covering the use of the park. Camping facilities may be assessed, except the New Mexico Game Commission will retain control over an area not fronting on the lake where free and well designated parking for fishermen...” This contract was updated and re-signed by both parties (now known as the State Parks Division and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish) on October 22, 2001. As such, an area will be designated for free parking, and is scheduled **for FY05 at an estimated cost of \$1,000 funded by AOB.**

#### **Hours of Operation**

CLSP is open on a 24-hour basis year round for camping. Day use is restricted to 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Fishing and boating are allowed from noon March 1

through midnight October 31. The west side of CLSP is closed November 1 through February 28 to reduce maintenance costs.

### **Maintenance**

Employees will perform required maintenance as per Section 11, *Parks Policy and Procedures Manual* and *Parks Standards of Use and Care Manual*.

### **Emergencies**

All emergencies will be handled in accordance with Section 5, *Parks Policy and Procedures Manual*.

### **Regional Support Resources**

The Region 2 administrative office is located in Tucumcari, New Mexico. A Regional Manager, Administrator 2, Plant Operations Specialist and roving Marine Enforcement Officer support the parks in the region. The regional office provides administrative support for the park.

## **B. NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **Environment**

CLSP is located 12 miles northwest of Clayton via Highway 370. The park is located at the southwestern edge of the Great Plains. The landscape is characterized by rolling prairie, volcanic rock formations and sandstone bluffs. The average park altitude is approximately 5,050 feet. The average annual temperature is 53 degrees Fahrenheit. July temperatures average 74 degrees Fahrenheit, rarely, but occasionally reaching 100 degrees. January temperatures average 33 degrees Fahrenheit, occasionally dipping to below zero degrees Fahrenheit. The average annual rainfall is 14.12 inches; annual snowfall averages 21.3 inches.

### **Geologic Resources**

The 402.5 acres of parkland are a combination of rolling grasslands above the valley, and juniper and cottonwoods situated among various rock formations in the valley itself. The rock formations are formed of Dakota sandstone, and are part of the Romeroville formation, which stretches approximately 100 miles, from just northeast of the park to southwest of Las Vegas, New Mexico. There are also many large outcroppings of Alkali Olivine Basalts (lava rock), remainders of the many volcanic eruptions in the area 6,000-10,000 years ago. The rocky terrain makes digging very difficult, and for large excavations, blasting is required almost anywhere in the park.

### **Vegetation**

The predominant vegetation at CLSP is a variety of low to mid-level grasses and clovers (white prairie, white sweet, yellow sweet and purple prairie). There are also a significant variety of prairie wildflowers. The predominant tree species are

juniper, (both one-seed and Rocky Mountain varieties), cottonwoods, Web leafed hackberries, Gambel oak, elm and River willow.

As grazing has not been allowed in the park since the mid 1950s, vegetation has had time to recover almost completely. The main concern now is unauthorized roads, which damage the environment through erosion, and are unsightly.

The only perennial wetlands at CLSP are located on the back (east) side of the dam. These are created by a combination of natural seeps and lake water that percolate through the porous sandstone on the north end of the dam.

### **Wildlife**

The wildlife at CLSP is typical of the valleys and rolling grasslands of the high plains. Common mammals seen in and around the park are bobcats, raccoons, coyotes, ground squirrels, porcupines, mule deer, gray fox, badgers, black bear and occasional elk and mountain lion.

Included on the CLSP bird list are: common loon, Canadian geese, snow geese, various varieties of ducks, mountain bluebird, roadrunners, towhees, numerous raptors, including bald and golden eagles, osprey, harriers, Swainson's and kestrels. In the winter, it is not uncommon for several thousand waterfowl to be on the lake. These large number and variety of birds prompted the Audubon Society to proclaim CLSP a "Very Important Birding Area" in 2001, a distinction that draws bird watchers from many states.

Sport fish in the lake consist of walleye, rainbow trout, green sunfish, largemouth bass, blue gill and channel catfish. The abundance and variety of fish attract many anglers from the five state areas. The New Mexico Game and Fish Department regularly stocks the lake with trout. The other species of fish reproduce naturally in Clayton Lake. In addition, every other year the Department of Game and Fish stocks Clayton Lake with approximately 100,000 walleye fry.

### **Hydrology**

The principal aquifer for this area is the Ogallala Aquifer that stretches from Texas to the United States northern boundaries. This aquifer is used extensively for irrigation throughout the region, causing some water levels to decline in recent years. The well, which provides all of CLSP's potable water was installed in November 1968 and reached standing water at 72' (although the well was actually extended to 120'). This well is still a good source of potable water. The ground water reservoirs in the area are recharged principally from precipitation and runoff.

### **Resource Protection**

Vegetation at CLSP does not regenerate easily. For that reason, vehicular traffic needs to be controlled to prevent a vast network of unauthorized roadways

throughout the park. These roads will be closed off in **FY05, with AOB funds at an estimated cost of \$1,500**. The use of water, wastewater and utilities also need to be closely monitored, so that the capacity of resources, both natural and human, remains adequate. Special attention needs to be placed on restricting recreation to within designated sites, controlling non designated vehicular use, unauthorized damage or removal of trees, and reducing potential pollution of surface water. The development of an interpretive master plan will provide a detailed system for using resources for education and enrichment, while sustaining and conserving the resource for future availability.

## **C. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Cultural Resource Management**

Cultural resources within the park are subject to state cultural resource protection laws (see Appendix F). Development within the park will be coordinated with the State Parks Division Archaeologist to avoid negative impact to significant cultural resources. State Park Division personnel will work to preserve and protect cultural resources from negative impacts from the public or environmental factors.

### **Archaeological Sites**

Some cultural resource surveys have been conducted at CLSP, but there are still large areas that need surveying. Based on research, it has been found that a series of culture groups utilized this region, beginning as early as the Paleo-Indian period. The big game hunters of 9500 to 5000 B.C. were occupants, and projectile points from both the Clovis and Folsom complexes have been found in the area. A total of 85 acres were culturally surveyed in fiscal year 2000. The remaining cultural resource survey will be conducted in **FY09 at a cost of \$21,000, funding is TBD**.

The Archaic period is also represented. Hunters and gatherers of 5000 B.C. to A.D. set up encampments along Seneca Creek. Their mobile existence was based on hunting wild game and gathering native plant materials.

The Plains Woodland period lasted from A.D. 200 to 1000. These people were semi-sedentary, establishing some villages and circular masonry dwellings. They practiced agriculture and artifacts consisting of corner notched projectile points, one-hand manos and cord-marked pottery. The Plains Village period occurred from A.D. 1000-1500 and sites consist of rooms constructed of upright slabs, dart points, and cord-marked ceramics. Larger sites and villages characterize the Antelope Creek focus from A.D. 1300-1500.

An archaeological site that contains all of the above time periods and cultures is submerged beneath Clayton Lake. This site, known as Pigeon Cliffs, had some

structural elements, included petroglyphs, and dated from the Paleo-Indian to Plains Village periods. The National Park Service excavated it in 1954, prior to the creation of the lake.

During the historic period, the Comanche and Jicarilla Apache occupied the area. These highly mobile groups traversed the region, and remnants of their campsites can be found in the area.

Rabbit Ear Mountain is located near CLSP. There are a variety of stories behind the name, including links to either a Comanche or Cheyenne chief that was buried on the mountain. The name of the mountain has also been linked to early Spanish explorers.

Due to the Comanche and Apache stronghold in the area, little Hispanic or Euro-American settlement took place until 1821, when the Cimarron cutoff on the Santa Fe Trail was established near the present day location of CLSP. Cattle and sheep ranchers settled in the area, as did farmers and homesteaders. In 1887, the Town of Clayton was founded, and was named after Clayton Dorsey, son of former Senator Stephen Dorsey, who ranched in the area.

The railroad aided in bringing more settlers into the area and in transporting products. By the 1890s, the Colorado and Southern railroad passed through the town, which was the county seat by 1899. The railroad also brought train robbers, and the infamous robber Thomas E. “Black Jack” Ketchum was hung in Clayton in 1899.

By 1930, dry land farming halted in this region due to the devastating dustbowls. The Kiowa National Grasslands was established to aid in the recovery of lands decimated by the dustbowl. Ranching continues in this region to this day, however, the Town of Clayton continues to be a hub of activity for the region.

#### **D. EDUCATION and INTERPRETATION**

In the past, little emphasis was placed on interpretation. With the development and implementation of an Interpretive Master Plan (IMP) and with the assistance of the Regional Interpretive Ranger, interpretation and education will take on an increasingly important role. It is also hoped that with more interpretive programs off-season visitation can be increased.

There are no permanent or seasonal interpretive staff positions at this time, but in the future, it is hoped a seasonal Interpretive Ranger position will be added, to help develop more comprehensive interpretive programs for park visitors. These programs would focus on (but not be limited to) paleontology, astronomy, local history (i.e., the nearby Santa Fe Trail) and natural resources. Park staff is knowledgeable about the cultural and natural history of the park and surrounding areas to answer visitors’ questions. To date there has been no formal interpretive

program, but with the assistance of the Regional Interpretive Ranger, the staff is hoping to develop an interpretive program for local schools and tour groups. Currently, education and interpretation activities are primarily limited to two areas: the dinosaur track way and the Visitor Center, although on occasion, volunteer interpreters are utilized to provide various educational programs for park visitors.

### **Dinosaur Track way**

The dinosaur track way has a boardwalk that circles the tracks, allowing visitors close access to over 500 dinosaur tracks. These tracks were created approximately 100 million years ago, during the Cretaceous Period. These tracks are very popular with visitors, attracting both “drive-through” visitors coming through the Town of Clayton who see signs advertising the tracks, and also attracting numerous school and tour groups, ranging in age from preschool to the university level. The tracks also attract paleontologists from around the world. Although the boardwalk is designed to be self-guided, park staff leads formal group tours of the tracks upon request. This boardwalk was rebuilt in 1998 (Youth Conservation Corps project) using Polymer “Trex” material. This material is made of recycled plastic, and is rot and warp resistant. Walkway spurs will be added for better views of the tracks, and a horizontal top rail will be added for safety and stability (see Table 2). The outdoor exhibits, both on the boardwalk itself and the viewing pavilion above the tracks are scheduled to be up-dated in **FY 06 at an estimated cost of \$15,000 funded by TRAILS** (see Table 2).

### **Visitor Center**

The Visitor Center places CLSP within the local historical and geological context, using educational exhibits. The Visitor Center has displays highlighting the dinosaur tracks, the various Indian tribes that inhabited the valley and surrounding areas, the Santa Fe Trail that ranged along the northern edge of the park, as well as the ranching lifestyle that now predominates the area. Emphasis is also placed on the lake and local wildlife. Text, photographs, diagrams, maps, artifacts and castings of the dinosaur tracks are used to interpret the area’s history and natural history. The Visitor Center building itself is an interpretive display, in that it was built using only environmentally friendly, recycled materials, with the walls constructed on straw bales. An interpretive brochure on the construction of the straw bale building was prepared in 2002, to further educate visitors on this environmentally friendly construction technique. **Landscaping for the grounds is planned for FY05 at an estimated cost of \$15,000** (see Table 1).

### **Interpretive Trails**

Currently, there are two hiking trails at CLSP: The “Dinosaur Trail” is approximately ¼ mile in length, and leads from a parking lot across the dam to the boardwalk circling the dinosaur tracks on the dam spillway, and the “Nature

Trail”, a less well-known trail that parallels Seneca Creek for approximately 1.5 miles, from Chicano Beach to the park’s northwest corner. At this time, neither trail has any formal interpretive features. Using **TRAILS** monies, identification signs will be placed along the Dinosaur Trail identifying native vegetation at a **cost of \$9,000**.

An interpretive kiosk will be placed at the head of the Nature Trail identifying archaeological and natural resources (including the riparian life zone) along the trail, to create a self-guided interpretive trail. This kiosk will be funded by **TRAIL monies, and is scheduled for FY 07 at an estimated cost of \$1,500**.

The grounds of the Visitor Center will be landscaped in **FY05**; this will include an interpretive trail on the building’s north side that will have signs identifying native prairie plants. **AOB, CIP and TRAILS monies will fund this project**.

## **E. FACILITIES and STRUCTURES**

### **Group Shelter**

The Group Shelter is old and does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. It is scheduled to have walls added as a windbreak, have parking delineated better and the surrounding grounds landscaped. **This project will cost approximately \$10,000, and will be funded by CIP funds in FY07** (see Table 3).

### **Campgrounds**

With only seven sites with electric and water hook-ups (one of which is occupied by a camp host), these sites are always in demand, indicating a need for more sites with utilities. The five-site area, known, as the “South Loop” will have water and electric hook-ups added in **FY07**, to better serve park visitors. There is already a water line leading to a centralized area in the campground, so additional trenching will be minimal. **The project costs are estimated at \$10,000** (see Table 3).

Please reference Appendix A for a detailed list of facilities. See Table A-1 for a campground listing.

### **Concessions**

Currently, there are no concessions operating at the park, although the “Friends of Clayton Lake” volunteer group has purchased a walk-in freezer to start ice sales to visitors during the camping season. The Friends Group are also pursuing plans to offer firewood for sale, and exploring other possible sales (coffee cups, tee-shirts), but sales will be limited so as to not compete with local vendors. There is also the possibility of limited sales of food and drinks at park events.

In the future, educational books, maps, tee shirts, caps and other items will be sold from the park visitor center, as these items are often requested by park visitors. The New Mexico State Parks Marketing Section will facilitate this program.

### **Recreation/Resource Protection**

As the New Mexico State Parks Division's mission is to protect natural resources while enhancing the enjoyment of them by visitors, various road and area closures are required to protect the beauty of this unique area (see Table 1).

The carrying capacity of CLSP developed and primitive sites are primarily challenged during the annual Trout Derby, although limited use of these same areas occur throughout the fishing season. This "overflow" camping has proven detrimental to the lake's riparian zone in what is known as the "No Man's Land" camp ground in the park's northwest corner and along the water's edge in the Rock Garden campground. This damage necessitates the closing of these areas (see Table 1). These closings will allow for pedestrian access to the lake, but will prevent vehicular traffic, minimizing riparian damage. Closings will take place in **FY05 at an estimated cost of \$2,000 funded through AOB.**

Another area that has been severely eroded by vehicular traffic is the area below site #6 in the cove area – these two unauthorized roads will be closed to vehicles, with a parking area provided between sites #6 and #7.

Site #18, #19 and #33 (Chicano Beach) are very rocky and unlevelled, and get virtually no visitor use. These shelters will be removed and the roadways blocked off to allow for re-vegetation in **FY05 at a cost of \$500 funded by AOB.** (table 1). The double vault toilet located at Chicano Beach currently does not have ADA accessible parking. An accessible parking area will be **added in FY 09 at a cost of \$1,000** (see Table 5).

Unauthorized roads are to be closed throughout the park where appropriate. Roads throughout the park need repair and drainage plans to prevent future erosion problems. Site delineation is also required throughout the park. These projects will be **funded by CIP at an estimated cost of \$40,000** (see Table 2).

All of the shelters throughout the park (excluding the newer electric sites and sites C – 1 through C - 10) are old, unsightly and require constant maintenance. Sites C – 11 through C – 30 are to be replaced during **FY 08 – 09, at a total cost of \$110,400.** This project will be **funded by CIP** (see tables 4 and 5).

### **Signage**

Signage throughout the park is a combination of signs made at the park or professionally made signs. All signs need to be uniform, attractive and informative. Signs throughout the park will be replaced, to create a uniform signage format. This will be **funded by CIP, at a cost of \$3,000** (see Table 2).

### **Boating/Fishing**

Boating is restricted to trolling speed only, and allowed from March 1 through October 31. Clayton Lake is accessed by one boat ramp located on the North Point. The access road to this ramp is in poor condition, and needs to be repaved. This repaving will **cost an estimated \$100,000, and will be funded by DJ** (see Table 2) in **FY06**. Anglers and boaters are served by one courtesy dock located at the ramp, and two fishing docks elsewhere. There are no suitable areas for other docks or another ramp, and none are needed.

## **F. EQUIPMENT**

### **Communications**

The park communications system is comprised of one state cellular phone, two hand-held radios and a base station radio. Communications within the park office and shop consist of direct telephone lines, facsimile machine and direct Internet access line.

Park personnel are equipped with standard radio communication equipment, which includes hand-held radios as well as base station radio with Division as well as other law enforcement agency frequencies. Volunteers are also instructed in the correct and responsible use of hand-held radios.

### **Field**

Please reference Appendix C for a detailed list of field equipment.

### **Office**

Please reference Appendix C for a detailed list of office equipment.

### **Vehicles/Heavy Equipment**

Please reference Appendix C-1 for a complete list of vehicles/equipment/boating equipment.

## **G. UTILITIES**

### **Water/Waste Water Systems**

Potable water for the entire park is supplied by one well. This well was installed in November 1968, and is 120' deep. It is run by a 3 h.p. Submersible pump. The water is chlorinated by an automatic drip system and pumped into a maximum 100-psi surge tank. This potable water supply is tested quarterly by the New Mexico Environment Department, Environmental Improvement Division for potability.

The shop, Visitor Center/Office and comfort station share a common septic tank and leach field located immediately behind the comfort station. The Manager's residence has its own septic tank and leach field.

CLSP has four single vault and two double vault toilets located throughout the park. These toilets are inspected and cleaned daily by park staff, and serviced a minimum of once a year.

The lack of a dump station for campers and trailers is a common source of complaints, as visitors must travel to the Town of Clayton and pay an additional fee to empty their holding tanks. In the past, park management has researched areas within the park for a dump station. After discussion with the local Environment Department representative, they notified us that there were no viable areas due to the watershed and geologic formation.

#### **Solid Waste**

Each developed site has two 33-gallon trashcans. These trashcans are emptied daily and stored in a trash compactor trailer, which is taken to the county landfill when full (approximately once per week during the boating/fishing season). As bears rummaging through the trash have become a common problem, "Bear Proof" trashcans were added to each campground in fiscal year 2005. Two large food storage lockers were added to the group shelter.

#### **Electrical Service**

Southwest Electric Cooperative provides the park's electricity. All lines are underground, except where the lines enter the park. The overhead lines leading to the boat ramp will be removed, and solar lighting will be installed, at **an estimated cost of \$2,000 funded by BOAT**. Solar lighting will be added to three pay stations. **This CIP project will be completed in FY 08, at an estimated cost of \$1,000.**

### **V. BUDGET and STAFFING**

#### **A. CURRENT BUDGET**

The approved annual operating budgets and expenditures for CLSP for the past five fiscal years are listed in the table below. The Division allocates these budgets to be used to cover annual operating costs.

**TABLE 8**  
**Clayton Lake State Park**  
**Expenditures for FY 98 to FY 02**

<b>Fiscal Year (FY)</b>	<b>FY Expenditures</b>	<b>FY Allotted Budget</b>
<b>99</b>	<b>119,078</b>	<b>119,593</b>
<b>00</b>	<b>114,384</b>	<b>115,292</b>
<b>01</b>	<b>127,682</b>	<b>129,324</b>
<b>02</b>	<b>130,425</b>	<b>135,034</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>128,493</b>	<b>130,281</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>620,063</b>	<b>629,524</b>

**B. STAFFING**

**Staffing/Positions**

CLSP is currently staffed with a Park Manager and two non-law enforcement Park Technicians. Two Seasonal Laborer positions are assigned to the park during the peak season. Because of the small staff, all members must be familiar with all phases of park operations and maintenance. Please reference Appendix E for a chart of the park staff organization.

*Park Manager* – Supervises the park’s overall operations. The Manager is responsible for all administrative, personnel, fiscal, law enforcement and maintenance and park projects. The Manager serves as the primary liaison to other agencies and to local communities.

*Park Technician* – These positions are primarily responsible for building and facility maintenance, and for visitor services. The Park Technicians also supervise Seasonal Laborers and volunteers, and perform administrative duties in the Park Manager’s absence.

*Regional Interpretive Ranger (RIR)* – This position is based at Sugarite Canyon State Park in Raton. The RIR serves all parks in Region 2, including CLSP. This individual has the primary responsibility to coordinate interpretive and educational activities and materials with region park personnel. It is hoped that as demand for interpretive activities increase, a seasonal Interpretive Ranger position can be added.

**Staff Development and Training**

Park employees are required to train and/or maintain certifications in various fields, depending on the position, including (but not limited to) Law Enforcement, Water/Waste Water, CPR, First Aid and Defensive Driving. In addition, any training that is beneficial to staff or the Division is strongly encouraged, and every

effort is made to accommodate employee requests to attend beneficial non-mandatory training.

### **Volunteer/Special Programs**

CLSP utilizes volunteer Campground Hosts during the peak season. These volunteers are provided with an electric and water hook-up campsite in exchange for 24 hours of service per week. This service includes assisting visitors after hours, policing the campground and manning the Visitor Center as needed.

Volunteers are also utilized on an “as needed/available” basis for interpretive programs, trail maintenance or special projects and programs. On occasion, local courts sentence non-violent offenders to community service at CLSP.

### **Park Support/Friends Groups**

A permanent group of volunteers known as “Friends of Clayton Lake” has recently been founded. This group will assist with special projects and/or events, and have fund raising events to assist CLSP in constantly improving facilities.

## **C. SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Annual Trout Derby**

The largest use of volunteers occurs during the weekend of the annual Trout Derby. This annual event is co-sponsored by CLSP, the Clayton/Union County Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Clayton. Approximately 30 – 35 volunteers are utilized for duties ranging from prize solicitation, food service, hosting secondary contests such as the horseshoe tournament, casting contests, hosting fishing clinics and other events held during the derby. The Town of Clayton provides trash dumpsters and a truck to empty them, sand for the kids’ sand dig, and employees and equipment to help with the preparation for this event. In years past, virtually every business (and many individuals) in Clayton have donated prizes, cash or labor for this event. In addition, numerous national corporations have donated prizes. The administrative and bookkeeping aspects are done under the auspices of the Clayton/Union County Chamber of Commerce and a permanent “Trout Derby Committee” that consist of the Chamber Executive Director, CLSP Manager and three individuals who were instrumental in planning and helping the Derby become such a success. Starting in 2005, this committee will also host a “Kids Trout Derby” the first weekend of June. This derby will also have many side events, such as a hot dog eating contest, Frisbee throwing, etc, and will also offer cash prizes for largest fish caught.

To minimize overcrowding and the resulting habitat damage during these events, local motels and the KOA campground all offer discounts to entrants, to

encourage them to stay in town. In addition, the Friends of Clayton Lake group offers a shuttle service, to minimize the number of vehicles brought into the park.

### **Brrrds on the Plains Festival**

The first “Brrrds on the Plains” Festival was held in December 2002. This event is primarily a bird-watching event, and is co-sponsored by CLSP, the Clayton/Union County Chamber of Commerce and the Herzstein Memorial Museum/Union County Historical Society. It is anticipated that this will become an annual event, increasing winter visitation.

### **Discovery Weekend**

CLSP also hosts regular “Discovery Weekends”, during which visitors can learn about paleontology, geology, local flora and fauna. In the past, this event has also hosted bird watching tours, talks on local history (i.e., the near by Santa Fe Trail), flint knapping demonstrations and pottery making.

### **Star Parties**

CLSP has some of the darkest skies in the entire United States, and combined with a growing interest in astronomy, “star parties”, using the Division’s computerized telescope, as well as local’s telescopes are becoming increasingly popular. Many area astronomy clubs also come to CLSP on a regular basis to set up their telescopes to observe the night skies. A permanent astronomy observatory will be constructed at “Star Point” at the site of the new Group Camping Area, to increase educational opportunities, and increase visitation from astronomers.

**Clayton Lake State Park  
Appendix A  
List of Public Use Facilities**

**Existing Facilities**

The primary public use facilities at CLSP include the following:

- 1 – visitor center/staff office
- 1 – comfort station
- 4 – single vault toilets
- 2 – double vault toilets
- 7 – camp sites with shelter, table, grill, electric and water hook-ups
- 30 – camp sites with shelter, table and grill
- 1 – group shelter with double electric camper hook-ups, lights, water, six tables and large grill
- 1 – boardwalk around dinosaur tracks, with viewing pavilion and interpretive displays
- 1 – boat ramp
- 1 – courtesy dock
- 2 – fishing docks
- 1 – playground

**Clayton Lake State Park**  
**Appendix A-1**  
**Campground Listing**

Clayton Lake has a total of 36 developed sites: 29 sites have a table, shelter and barbeque grill; seven sites have the above, in addition to on site water and electric hook-ups.

Electric Sites: Consists of seven sites with table, shelter, barbeque grill, electric and water hook-up. Five of these sites (E-3 through E-7) are on the reservation program May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 5<sup>th</sup>. One double vault toilet.

Cove Campground: Ten developed sites with table, shelter and barbeque grill. Five of these sites (C-1 through C-5) are on the reservation program May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 5<sup>th</sup>. One single vault toilet.

South Loop: Five developed sites with table, shelter and barbeque grill. One single vault toilet. See table 3.

Rock Garden: (Upper and Lower) Upper has two developed sites with table, shelter and barbeque grill, one site with table and grill. Site of proposed Scout Camp (see Table 4). Lower has three sites with table, shelter and barbeque grill (see tables 1 and 4). One single vault toilet.

Peach Point: Five developed sites with table, shelter and barbeque grill. One site with table and grill.

Star Point: Three sites with table, shelter and grill. See Table 1.

No Man's Land: No developed facilities. See Table 1.

Chicano Beach: Three sites with table, shelter and barbeque grill. One double vault toilet. See table 1.

In addition, there is one large area known as "North Point" that is utilized primarily for overflow camping, as well as for large groups. One double vault toilet is provided, as well as two tables. No sites are delineated, and because of the rocky terrain, visitor impact on the area is minimal.

**Clayton Lake State Park**  
**Appendix B**  
**Operational/Support Facilities**

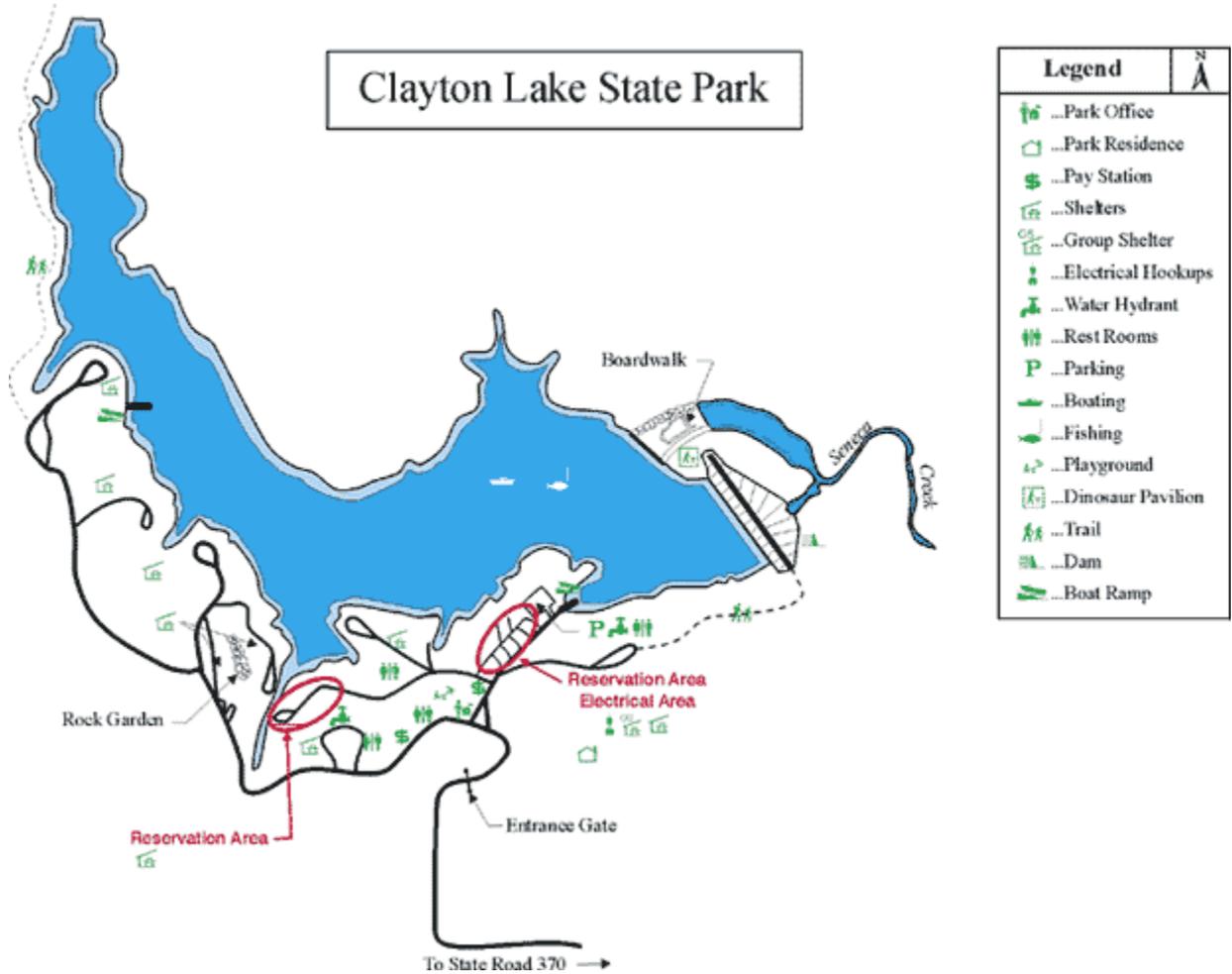
**Existing Facilities**

The primary operational/support facilities at CLSP include:

- 1 – Maintenance shop with storage, office and fenced shop yard
- 1 – Well house
- 1 – Office (located in the visitor center)
- 1 – 54 x 24' residence
- 2 – single wide access gates
- 2 – double wide access gates

Clayton Lake State Park  
 Appendix C  
 Map of Clayton Lake State Park

# CLAYTON LAKE



**Clayton Lake State Park  
Appendix C-1  
Map of Region**

**Clayton Lake State Park**  
**Appendix D**  
**Small Equipment**

<u>Shop Tools</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Model</u>
Air Compressor	Sandborn	Farmtest
Drill Press	Rockwell	15-081
Generator	Dayton	3W795
Bench Grinder	Black and Decker	1766
6 Drawer Tool Chest	Craftsman	
5 Drawer Tool Chest	Craftsman	
9.6 V. Cordless Drill (3)	Makita	6095D
Tire Repair Machine	Coats	310
225 Amp Welder	Lincoln	AC225
Auto Chlorinator Pump	LABS	45MHP
Circular Saw (2)	Skilsaw	H77205
Jig Saw	Black and Decker	7543
4" Belt Sander	Sears	A1227
Floor Jack	Ausco	5-51208
1 ½ Ton Wench	Jet	TPB
Pressure Washer	Alladin	532G
Joiner	Powermatic	330
Stand-up Sander	Powermatic	Mod. 60
Assorted Hand Tools	Various	

Ground Tools

Push Mower	John Deere	JX 75
Riding Mower	John Deere	LX172
Chain Saw	STIHL	FS36
Brush Cutter (2)	STIHL	FS85
Brush Cutter	STIHL	FS75
Brush Cutter	STIHL	FS120

Office Tools

Laser Jet Printer	Hewlett Packard	Laser Jet IIIp
Computer w/Monitor and Keyboard	Gateway	EV700
Computer w/Monitor and Keyboard	Dell	P90
Electric Typewrite	IBM	Wheelwriter
Facsimile	Cannon	Super 3G
Copier	Konica	7022

Communications

Base Radio	Midland	70-1495B
Hand Held Radios w/chargers (2)	ICOM	1C-F30LT
Hand Held Radio w/charger	ICOM	FC-F3S

**Clayton Lake State Park  
Appendix D-1  
List of Large Equipment**

ITEM

Vehicles

1994 Ford 4x4 Pickup Truck  
2000 Chevrolet Pickup Truck  
2001 John Deere “Gator” ATV with Utility Trailer

Heavy Equipment

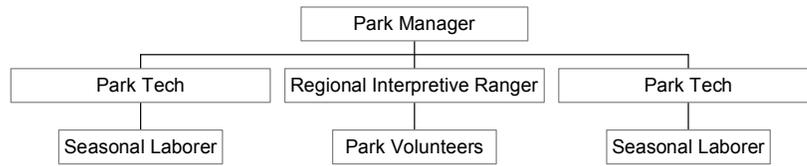
Utility Trailer  
John Deere 870 Tractor with Loader  
John Deere Rotary Cutter

Boating

16’ Smokercraft Jon Boat, 25 H.P. motor and Trailer

**Clayton Lake State Park  
Appendix E  
Staff Organizational Chart**

# Clayton Lake State Park



## **Appendix F**

### **Cultural Resource Protection Laws**

The following cultural resource protection laws are applicable to CLSP. 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*

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (P.L. 89-665; 16 U.S.C. § 40-470w-6).** This law establishes historic preservation as a national policy and defines it as the protection, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology or engineering. It establishes guidelines for recognizing nationally significant properties and methods of documentation of these properties. It authorizes the withholding of sensitive data on historic properties to avoid harm to the cultural resource or to ensure that traditional use of an area is not impeded.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act provides direction for federal agencies for any development project on federal property that may potentially impact any cultural resource listed or eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. Section 110 requires that federal agencies locate and inventory cultural resources on federal land for use in planning.

**Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (P.L. 96-95; 16 U.S.C. § 470aa-11).** This act prohibits the removal; sale, receipt and interstate transportation of archaeological resources from public or Native American lands obtained illegally (without permits), and imposes substantial criminal and/or civil penalties.

**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 (§18-6-1 to 18-6-17, NMSA 1978)** This Act recognizes that the state's historical and cultural heritage of the state as one of the states most valued and important assets. It indicates that the neglect, desecration and destruction of historical and cultural sites, structures, places and objects result 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 state projects to determine effect upon significant historic properties. This law prohibits unauthorized excavation 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 (§18-8-1 to 18-8-8, NMSA 1978)** 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 §18-16A-1 to 18-6A-6, NMSA 1978).** 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.