

Oasis State Park

Management Plan 1999

Director's Approval _____ Date: _____

**Oasis State Park
Management and Development Plan
FY 2000-FY2004**

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PREFACE

Each state park administered and managed by the State Parks Division (Division) of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) is required to establish a Management and Development Plan. (Reference: Title 19 Chapter 5, Part 3 of the New Mexico Code: 19MNAC 5.3) The objective of these plans is to provide direction for the management and development of the state parks in a manner which 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 over a five-year period. (Reference: Section 13 of the State Parks Division's State Parks Policy and Procedures Manual.)

The planning process for Park Management and Development Plans consists of establishing a planning team for each 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 Management and Development Plan (Plan) for the park; soliciting public input on the draft Plan and revising it as appropriate; approval of the revised Plan by the Division Director; and implementation of the approved Plan by the Park Manager/Superintendent.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Division is to manage the park system to enrich the lives of New Mexicans and visitors to the state. At Oasis State Park (OSP) this mission is fulfilled by enhancing recreational, camping and fishing opportunities for local communities and out-of-state visitors, and for the physically challenged, and to provide safe, functional, and accessible areas to recreate and regenerate. Our overall goal is to provide a clean, safe and friendly environment for all visitors.

The park will also strive to continue being a community-minded tourism asset. A 1996 economic impact survey conducted by New Mexico State University for the Division, "An Economic Impact Analysis of New Mexico State Parks- An Input Output Analysis," June, 1996, indicates that Park visitors spend \$12 million in surrounding communities (within 50 miles) every year.

This plan sets forth the specific goals, policies, improvements and changes the Park proposes to implement between Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 and FY2004 (July, 1 1999-June 30, 2004)

B. SUMMARY of PROPOSED ACTIONS and POLICIES

At OSP there are several tasks that need funding. They include: completion of path around lake; removal, replacement or pruning of decaying cottonwood trees; installing a septic tank at campground host site; re-roofing and re-stuccoing the group shelter; and developing a trail and campsite lighting. In addition the park intends to implement a number of policy directives to improve the park's atmosphere and visitor experience.

1. PROPOSED ACTIONS

Tables 1-5 provide a detailed list of proposed actions for the FY00-FY04 planning period. The Park has set forth four major goals and multiple tasks to achieve each of them. These strategies are grouped by objective but 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 FY00, the Plan calls for an expenditure of \$67,700. The Tables identify expenditures for FY01 (\$23,500), FY02 (\$26,500), FY03 (\$11,500), and FY04 (to be determined.) These funds have not yet been appropriated by the State Legislature, but this plan will be used to advocate for the projects identified. There are several possible funding pools that could be used to

accomplish these projects and these are listed in the last column of each

table. The major goals are to complete projects which (1) create public safety and provide for ADA compliance, (2) enhance resource protection, (3) develop and maintain facilities and (4) provide education and interpretive exhibits and programs.

**TABLE 1
FISCAL YEAR 00**

Goal	Priority	Task	Time Frame (FY)	Estimated Costs (\$)	Funding Source*	Page #
Public Safety/ ADA	3	Complete footpath around lake	FY00	3,000	AOB	21
	5	Removal of old comfort station	FY00	1,500	AOB	19
	6	Removal or pruning of decaying cottonwood trees	FY00	2,000	AOB	16
	12	Purchase and install mobile radio unit in park vehicle	FY00	1,200	AOB	20
Resource Protection	11	Re-vegetate amphitheater area	FY00	1,000	AOB	16
Develop and Maintain Facilities	1	Install additional telephone lines to office & residence	FY00	35,000	CIP	23
	2	Re-stucco comfort station	FY00	4,000	CIP	19
	4	Landscape office/shop area with irrigation system	FY00	1,500	AOB	16
	7	Install and maintain odor control devices in vault toilets	FY00	1,000	AOB	22
		Solid waste disposal contract to be bid	FY00	2,500 annually	AOB	22
Education and Interpretation	8	Begin natural resource survey	FY00-FY02	TBD	AOB	17
	9	Conduct a cultural resource survey	FY00	TBD	AOB	18
	10	Complete interpretive exhibit in visitor center	FY00	15,000	CIP	19

Total FY00 proposed expenditures

\$67,700

Funding Source: AOB (Annual Operating Budget-Parks Division); CIP (Capital Improvement Programs-Parks Div.); Trails (Federal Highway Funds); PVT (Private Sector or Volunteers/Friends Group); YCC (Youth Conservation Corps); RV Electric (RV).

**TABLE 2
FISCAL YEAR 01**

Goal	Priority	Task	Time Frame (FY)	Estimated Costs (\$)	Funding Source*	Page #
Public Safety/ ADA	4	Build trailheads and trails to lake from south parking lot, group shelter & Cottonwood Campground	FY01	7,500	AOB and Trails grant	21
	3	Develop one ADA site	FY01	1,000	YCC	19
Resource Protection	2	Develop tree nursery including drip irrigation system	FY01	2,500	YCC	16
Develop & Maintain Facilities	1	Install septic tank and leach field at campground host site	FY01	3,000	CIP	22
	5	Re-roof and re-stucco group shelter	FY01	8,000	CIP	19
	6	Plan & develop amphitheater, S.E. corner of lake	FY01	1,500	YCC	20
Total FY01 proposed expenditures				\$23,500		

Funding Source: AOB (Annual Operating Budget-Parks Division); CIP (Capital Improvement Programs-Parks Div.); Trails (Federal Highway Funds); PVT (Private Sector or Volunteers/Friends Group); YCC (Youth Conservation Corps); RV Electric (RV); Marketing-Parks Div; To Be Determined (TBD).

**TABLE 3
FISCAL YEAR 02**

Goal	Priority	Task	Time Frame (FY)	Estimated Costs (\$)	Funding Source*	Page #
Develop and Maintain Facilities	2	Redesign/reconfigure the main entrance & install pay booth	FY02	21,500	CIP	19
Education and Interpretation	1	Develop an outdoor interpretive trail, including signs & benches	FY02	5,000	CIP	20

Total FY01 proposed expenditures

\$26,500

Funding Source: AOB (Annual Operating Budget-Parks Division); CIP (Capital Improvement Programs-Parks Div.); Trails (Federal Highway Funds); PVT (Private Sector or Volunteers/Friends Group); YCC (Youth Conservation Corps); RV Electric (RV); Marketing-Parks Div; To Be Determined (TBD).

1. POLICY DIRECTIVES

No changes in policy or management are warranted at this time. However, as outlined in Table 1, the Park will undertake some data and information collecting initiatives. These may result in decisions regarding capacity and usage limitations, concessions or other policy changes.

II. PARK DESCRIPTION

A. BACKGROUND

Chapter 112 of the 1961 Laws of New Mexico, created OSP in 1961. This legislation provided for the purchase of 160 acres to establish a well-needed recreation area in Roosevelt County. Another 33.44 acres is leased from the State Land Office bringing the park's total acreage to 193.44 acres. Roosevelt County, characterized by dry lakebeds and silt/sand dunes, was used for free range in the 1800s. Early homesteaders gradually moved here and in 1902, one of these homesteaders, Will Taylor, planted a large grove of cottonwood trees. Taylor's Grove in OSP became a very popular picnic area for the local populace. Over the years, extensive plowing contributed to the buildup of sand dunes, which added to the attraction of the area for picnicking and recreation.

In 1973, a three-acre lake was added to the park, enhancing the recreational opportunities provided by the park. OSP is located approximately six miles northeast of Portales and 18 miles southwest of Clovis on NM Highway 467.

B. KEY FEATURES

Visitors have indicated that the primary attractions of OSP are the fishing and the clean and safe facilities, as well as the surrounding landscapes. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish stocks the lake with rainbow trout during the winter months and channel catfish from May-July. Many picnicking and camping facilities, including electrical hook-ups and a dump station for recreational vehicles, are available at the park. The park has three camping areas that are also used for picnicking. A list of existing facilities with a detailed description of each campground is contained in Appendix A.

Other attractions in the area include Blackwater Draw Archaeological Site and Museum, Clovis Model Train Depot, Roosevelt County Museum, New Mexico University Natural History Museum and Hillcrest

Eastern
Zoo.

III. VISITATION and REVENUE

A. VISITATION

Visitation. As indicated in Table 6, visitation at OSP averages more than 33,000 each year. Visitation is affected by the two fishing seasons and weather. During the months when fish are not stocked in the lake, visitation declines. Visitation fluctuates significantly, but since 1995, it has steadily increased. Assuming a 5-10% increase in visitation each year, OSP can expect to have nearly 50,000 visitors a year by the end of this planning period in FY04. The natural resources, park facilities and current personnel would not be able to accommodate these numbers.

Capacity. In order for visitors to have a quality recreation experience, they need enough room between other campers, picnickers, anglers, etc., so that crowding does not diminish their recreational experience. In addition, staffing levels may limit the park's ability to accommodate more than a certain number of visitors at one time. To date, capacity levels for the park or park areas have not been determined. Staff will determine the maximum number of visitors that should be allowed in each area. Based on the findings, management may decide to restrict use or increase park facilities accordingly.

TABLE 6
Annual Visitation and Receipts

Fiscal Year	Visitation	Self-Generated Receipts
98	34,600	\$24,167
97	40,713	21,567
96	35,287	19,695
95	28,078	22,114
94	26,902	21,491
93	35,311	18,831
Average	33,481	\$21,311

The majority of visits take place during October through May because the daytime temperatures are tolerable and the lake is stocked with fish. Night fishing is popular in the summer months. Based on staff observation and camping receipts, the majority of visitors are campers and anglers that come here frequently from the local communities and West Texas. The rest are citizens from the eastern part of New Mexico and from other states.

B. REVENUE

As indicated in Table 6 above, OSP generates an average of \$21,000 annually from fees for daily use, overnight camping, and other services-such as use of the group shelter and special use permits. Fees might be augmented by increasing the frequency of permit inspections/monitoring as staff can be utilized for this purpose OSP staff will have continual discussions with the Division's Marketing Bureau to develop ideas for materials that promote park visitation and revenues to the park.

IV. EXISTING OPERATIONS/FACILITIES and PROPOSED ACTIONS

The following 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

Lands/Realty. The Division owns 160 acres, and leases 33.44 acres along the northern boundary of the park from the State Land Office. Lands owned by private individuals border the park. The park office is in the northwest part of the park. One road in the park leads to farmland outside the park entrance, but it causes no visual disturbance. A legal description of the park is located in Appendix G. In FY04, Division staff will evaluate the possibility of leasing adjoining private lands at no cost.

Hours of Operation. The park is open to visitors 24 hours per day and 365 days per year. The park's daily staff hours are from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. There are limited times the office will not be open due to training requirements, manpower and maintenance tasks. Scheduling of staff may be adjusted to account for increased visitor service needs.

Maintenance. OSP employees use the Division's Standards of Care Manual as the guideline for proper maintenance of park facilities. The facilities are maintained in a safe and attractive condition for visitor and staff use and to prevent unnecessary and unplanned maintenance expense. Additional maintenance guidance is provided by the Division's Policy Manual, Section 11.

Emergencies. Park emergencies are handled in accordance with Division Policy Manual, Section 5, and other Division directives.

Regional Support Resources. The Region 4 office is located at Cottonwood. This office provides operational support for OSP. This support includes:

Water Plant Operations Specialist – provides and assists with water and waste water system operations

Administrator 2 – primarily provides purchasing and budget assistance

Volunteer Coordinator – provides and assists with recruitment and retention of volunteer staff

Region Manager – provides operational guidance

The region office maintains a supply of janitorial and other material to support park operations.

In addition, the northern part of Region 4 provides a backhoe, a bobcat with attachments and a dump truck with trailer for use at OSP when necessary.

Rules and Policies. OSP uses the standard Division and Department policies for operational guidance. These include EMNRD’s Policy Manual, Division Policy Manual, Division’s Standards of Care Manual and the Administrative Services Division’s Procedures Manual. State Personnel policies govern the parks’ personnel procedures. These policy books are kept up to date and employees have access to these books. New employees are required to read and sign all policy books.

B. NATURAL RESOURCES

Water. Surface drainage is poorly developed in the Portales Valley and, as a result, OSP has no natural rivers or lakes. Even ephemeral watercourses are limited in extent and development, flowing only briefly in response to intense showers. Poorly developed surface drainage leads to occasional flooding in the park following the most intense rainfall events, which usually occur on summer evenings.

OSP has a man-made lake that covers approximately three surface acres. The lake bottom is sealed with bentonite clay to minimize seepage loss. Water is pumped into the lake as necessitated by evaporation and seepage. OSP is authorized by the New Mexico State Engineer Office to pump up to a maximum of 50 acre-feet per year to maintain the level of the lake. The primary activity at the lake is fishing. Boating and swimming are prohibited because a person wading or swimming could damage the bentonite seal.

Water for all uses at the park is pumped from groundwater in the Ogallala aquifer. The two park wells are approximately 85 and 125 feet deep. This aquifer is

vulnerable to contamination because the sandy geologic materials readily transmit pollutants to a relatively shallow water table. Regional water levels are declining in the Ogallala because the large volumes of historical and continuing withdrawal greatly exceed recharge, which has been negligible since the end of the Pleistocene, more than 10,000 years ago.

Wildlife. The wildlife at OSP is typical of the High Plains Ecoregion. Mammals seen in and around the park include black-tailed prairie dog, porcupine, skunk, jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit, coyote, spotted ground squirrel and mule deer. Sandy soils of the area are particularly well suited as habitat for game birds. The bird list for the park includes scaled quail, bobwhite quail, red-tailed hawk, mourning dove, pheasant and many migratory birds. Resident reptiles include bull snake and rattlesnake. Occurrence of threatened or endangered animal species at the park is uncertain; an old report of Swift Fox requires corroboration. Comprehensive wildlife inventories are available for Curry and Roosevelt counties, but OSP has never had a complete inventory.

Vegetation. Native vegetation in the vicinity of OSP is primarily grassland and prairie. An old, partial vegetation survey (Stutts and Sperry, 1968) found broom snakeweed, sand bluestem, sand dropseed and little bluestem to be the most abundant plants. Also important were silver bluestem, big sandreed, red three-awn, sand sage and false buffalo grass, soapweed yucca, skunkbush and prairie sunflower. The native vegetation in the region was eliminated or degraded by agriculture, leaving Oasis as a refuge for native species. No threatened or endangered plant species exist at the park, as far as is known.

Woody plants at the park include cottonwood, New Mexico locust, Siberian elm, brush oak, green ash, velvet ash and one-seed juniper. Most of these are not native to the park, but were planted historically or recently. Trees improve the park's atmosphere by providing shade, windbreaks and erosion control. Many of the trees require management, including irrigation, pruning and root care. Most of the big cottonwoods are dying of old age. The removal or pruning of the decaying cottonwood trees is scheduled for FY00 at a cost of \$2,000 from AOB. A tree nursery and irrigation system is planned for FY01 to replace the dying cottonwoods and to add more trees throughout the park as needed, particularly around the new lake. The nursery may also provide trees to other parks as needed. The cost for the nursery and irrigation system will be approximately \$2,500, with most of this obtained from grants and donations.

The amphitheater area that is under development will be revegetated in FY00 using \$1,000 from AOB. This project is a priority because removal of the native vegetation has left a bare slope that is vulnerable to erosion and unauthorized visitor use. The area around the office/shop will be landscaped in FY00 at a cost of \$1,500 from AOB. Currently bare ground, this area needs to be landscaped in an attractive, natural way to provide an inviting area for visitors. The amphitheater revegetation and the office landscape design will take into

consideration the wider park plan to eventually landscape all developed areas of the park in an integrated, indigenous manner.

Landscape. OSP is in the Portales Valley, an eastern arm of the Pecos Valley Section of the Great Plains Physiographic Province. The Portales Valley is a flat, undulating, sandy region characterized by the Portales Valley Sand Hills. This is a relatively unique feature in New Mexico. Past cultivation under drought conditions, such as during the 1930's Dust Bowl, encouraged these sandy soils to blow into dunes. Examples of these dunes lie within and near the park. Running generally east to west, the Portales Valley separates two portions of the Llano Estacado, or "Staked Plain," to the north and south. Although technically not within the park, the Llano Estacado is another regionally significant landscape feature.

Geology. OSP has fairly simple, layer-cake geology. The uppermost materials are unconsolidated sediments deposited by rivers that carried water and sediment from the central New Mexico mountains toward the Mississippi River about 1 million years ago (middle Pleistocene Epoch). Locally and more recently, those river deposits have been reworked by the wind into dunes. The Ogallala Formation (late Tertiary Period, 20 million years old) lies beneath the Pleistocene alluvium, terraces and dunes. The Ogallala is well known for the huge volumes of high quality groundwater it has provided to human communities in several states over many decades. It provides drinking water for the cities of Clovis and Portales, and for OSP. Under the Ogallala are beds of dark red shales that are more than 210 million years old (Triassic Period). These maroon deposits are visible 50 miles north of the park in the Canadian River valley near Tucumcari.

Climate. OSP has a continental climate, with cold winters and hot summers. July maximum temperatures often exceed 100°F, while January minimum temperatures may fall below 0°F. The frost-free season extends approximately from April 20 to October 25, a period of about 180 days. Oasis receives an average of 15 inches of precipitation annually; 80% falls during the warm months of May through October. The park receives an average of 11 inches of snow per year, but often there are years during which there is no measurable snow. Spring (March – June) is the windiest season. The wind blows from the southwest more than 50% of the time.

Pests. An integrated pest management plan needs to be developed. This plan will describe how the park intends to address pest problems over the next five years. The plan will specify the problems and identify preferred alternatives to chemical use. Planned use of chemicals, if necessary, will identify the chemicals to be used, the times and locations of use, measures to be taken to avoid excessive or improper use, and the appropriately trained staff that will apply the chemicals. Currently, weeds such as grass burrs and sand burrs grow in the park and must be treated regularly with a herbicide to keep them under control. Due to the many dairies near the park, the increase in flies is creating concern.

Survey. A natural resource survey is scheduled for FY00 through FY02. This will entail visits by experts in various fields of natural history and natural resources. Initial work in FY00 will include a vegetation survey. Other aspects of the natural resource inventory, including birds, mammals and reptiles, will be completed in subsequent years.

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 Division's Cultural Resource 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.

A cultural resource survey is scheduled for FY00 with assistance from the Division's Cultural Resource Planner, qualified park staff and possibly students from Eastern New Mexico University of Portales.

Archaeological and Paleontological Sites.

There is a very high potential for archaeological sites at OSP, particularly of the Paleoindian period. Blackwater Draw archaeological site is located one mile from the park boundaries where in 1932, excavations uncovered evidence of the earliest human occupation in North America. Paleo-Indian hunters and gatherers occupied this area approximately 11,000 years ago. At Blackwater Draw, projectile points and stone tools were found in association with Late Pleistocene fauna, including woolly mammoth, camel, bison and sabertooth tiger. This site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and Eastern New Mexico University runs a museum nearby.

Due to the proximity to Blackwater Draw, it is highly likely that both archaeological remains and fossil remains do exist at OSP. Both Paleo-Indian artifacts and potential mammoth, camel and bison fossils are possible.

Other prehistoric archaeological sites may also exist at OSP. 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 Commanche groups. These groups were hunters and gatherers, often living in tepees.

In the early 1860s, cattle ranchers and homesteaders entered the area. OSP is a result of these early homesteading activities, whereby homesteader Will Taylor planted cottonwoods in this area creating an attractive recreation spot for locals.

D. FACILITIES/STRUCTURES

Concessions. At this time, there are no concessions operating in the park.

Recreational Facilities. Appendix A identifies the recreational facilities in the park. For the most part, they are in good condition and, other than indicated below, will not be replaced during the Plan period. The comfort station will be re-stuccoed in FY00 at an estimated cost of \$4,000 from CIP, and the group shelter will be re-stuccoed and re-roofed in FY01 for \$8,000, also from CIP. Planning and development of the multi-purpose field and landscaping of the playground will begin in FY03 at the cost of \$10,000 and \$1,500, respectively. An outdated and unusable comfort station will be removed at an anticipated cost of \$1,500 in FY00.

As listed in Appendix A, there are three campgrounds at OSP. There are currently 10 developed (with at least a picnic table, shelter and/or grill and water) and 13 developed sites with electrical hook-ups for Recreational Vehicles (RV's.)

An ADA-camping site will be developed in FY01 for \$1,000 from a YCC grant. Development of six additional camping sites is planned in FY04 at a cost of \$30,000 from CIP. Camping is allowed in all sites, but prohibited at the lake shore area.

In order to enhance the image of Oasis State Park, the names of the campgrounds will be changed as follows:

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>
Electric Area	Indian Grass Campground
Developed Sites	Cottonwood Campground
North Side Campground	Hideaway Campground

The new names are descriptive of their locations or setting and move away from being directionally based. The new names will be used on the new uniform sign system, publications, brochures, maps, plans and other park materials.

Administrations/Staff Facilities. Facilities include an office/shop, two well houses, and one park residence with carport. In FY02, the main entrance to the park will be reconfigured and a pay booth will be installed at a cost \$21,500 from CIP.

Education. At this time there are no interpretive exhibits or markers in the park. To enhance visitor safety and recreational experience, and to provide other information, new exhibits will be installed. For example, new professional exhibits for the Visitor Center will be developed and installed in FY00 using an estimated \$15,000 of CIP funds.

A newly printed brochure describes the park's climate, activities and regulations (see Appendix C). With updates and corrections as needed, this brochure can continue to inform visitors about the park in the coming years. The cool, breezy evenings should be emphasized in all marketing materials.

An outdoor interpretive trail will be developed in FY02 using \$5,000 from CIP funds. This project will involve replacing informal footpaths with a formal trail, installing benches at key locations, and developing and installing interpretive signs highlighting key features along the trail.

In FY01 using \$1,500 from AOB, the park will complete development of a natural amphitheater that will be used to orient and educate the public. The amphitheater also will be the site for interpretive programs, which will be given by volunteers and park staff. Topics for such programs may include park wildlife, native vegetation, cultural and archaeological resources, and history of the Park and the surrounding area.

Signs regarding protection and preservation of cultural and natural resources will be developed and installed at the Visitor Center and along trails. Educational signs will include information on the native flora and fauna. Bulletin boards for general park information may be installed at the office and comfort station.

E. EQUIPMENT

Communications. The park's communications system is comprised of state telephones, a base station, one mobile unit, and three hand held radios for staff and volunteers. As listed in table 1, FY00, an additional mobile unit is needed for the recently acquired park vehicle. This will cost \$1,200 funded from AOB.

Field Equipment. The park has a welder, two-walk behind mowers, one air compressor, one power washer, a bush mower, one weed eater and an auger. A list of current equipment in the park's inventory is contained in Appendix D.

Office. Current office equipment consists of telephones, fax machine, copier, computer and printer. A complete listing of office equipment is contained in Appendix D.

Vehicles. OSP currently has two trucks, two trailers, one tractor, a trash

compactor and a Gator 4x6 vehicle. A complete list of vehicles is contained in Appendix D.

F. TRANSPORTATION and ACCESS

Roads. The park currently has one mile of chip sealed roads. This road was completely redone by the State Highway Department between 1994 and 1996. The Indian Grass Campground, where the electrical sites are located, has pull-through drives and will accommodate the large RVs that are on the roads today.

When the park was established, vehicles traveled with relatively few restrictions throughout the park. This unchecked use caused a significant amount of erosion and site damage and created a network of volunteer roadways. Over the years, park staff has closed off undesirable roads using boulders and green treated posts. Off road traffic is prohibited at OSP.

Parking. There are several parking areas throughout the park. The office/shop shares a large parking area with the playground that is adequate for both areas. Each area has ADA parking. The comfort station parking lot will be reconfigured to include two ADA- accessible parking locations and to accommodate six other vehicles. Parking lots are provided at the north (50 vehicles) and south (15 vehicles) end of the lake. ADA parking is provided at the north parking lot. The multi-purpose field is used for overflow parking during special events.

Trails. Currently, the trails at OSP are not clearly defined by timbers or other means. The trail from the north parking lot of the lake is concrete, allowing ADA accessibility. It is anticipated that the trail around the lake will be completed in FY00 at a cost of \$3,000 from AOB. In FY01, a defined trailhead and trail leading to the lake from the south parking lot, group shelter and Cottonwood campground is planned at a cost of \$7,500 from AOB and grants. In FY02, an outdoor interpretive trail, including signs and benches, will be developed throughout the sand dunes and on the far east side of the lake at a cost of \$5,000 from CIP. Park staff will be responsible for maintaining this trail.

G. UTILITIES

All utility resources including those for water, wastewater, and energy systems and solid waste will be monitored by park staff to ensure that their capabilities are adequate, especially given projected increases in visitation in the coming years.

Water. Water for the entire park is provided by two wells: one on the west side for domestic use, and one located next to the lake which regenerates the lake/irrigation system. These wells draw water at 85 feet and 125 feet respectively. The well water is pumped into pressure tanks in the well houses and distributed through 2 inch main lines. The domestic water system was completely refurbished in 1996 and should be satisfactory for many years. Water at OSP is

not treated; however, Roswell Water & Wastewater Laboratory test it monthly for total coliforms and E. Coli bacteria. A sand filter was added to the domestic well in 1998 eliminating fine sand particles going through the system

Electricity. Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative, Inc., supplies the park's electrical needs. Seven separate meters allow staff to track specific use needs in various areas of the park. Several of the electrical lines are underground in the park, but the lines coming into the park are above ground and, due to high winds, pose a problem to the facilities within the park. The electrical lines in the center of the north parking lot, continuing to the comfort station and on to Indian Grass Campgrounds, are above ground and are unsightly. In FY04 all electrical lines in the park will be buried, thereby improving the overall aesthetics of the park. Ground lighting will be installed in all campgrounds on FY 04 for a cost of \$5,000 from electrical funds.

Gas. A vendor currently provides propane to OSP. This is a contracted item. The park has three 500-gallon tanks (one each at office/shop, comfort station and residence) and a 1000-gallon tank (fueling station). This will be adequate for this planning period.

Energy & Water Conservation. Any new facilities will be designed with energy and water conservation principles. All plumbing fixtures will be water conserving with low volume valves. Efforts will be made to renovate existing buildings and the residence to make them more energy efficient.

Waste Disposal

Solid Waste. Solid waste is removed on a regular basis by park staff. In FY00, an outside vendor will be contracted to assume this responsibility at a cost of \$2,500 from AOB because the local landfill will be closing down in 2000.

Septic Waste. The park wastewater system is handled by septic tanks and leach field systems. Each facility within the park has its own system. These facilities include shop/office, residence, comfort station and dump station. A septic tank and leach field will be installed at the campground host site at a cost of \$3,000 from CIP on FY01. The park's four vault toilets each have 750-gallon capacity tanks and have to be pumped out periodically. However, devices for eliminating odors and for controlling the heat during the summer are going to be installed in FY00 at a cost of \$1,000 from AOB.

Telephones. U.S. West provides local telephone service and long distance is provided by MCI. Lines coming into the park are not adequate at this time. There is only one pair that comes into the park from the highway and serves the office telephones, fax machine and computer. Because of this, the park does not have a pay phone for visitor usage and the park residence does not have a private line. Additional lines will be requested at a cost of \$35,000 from CIP in FY00.

V. BUDGET and STAFFING

A. CURRENT BUDGET

Park expenditures have averaged just over \$81,000 during the past several years. Expenditures peaked at more than \$112,000 in FY97 due primarily to the construction of the new office/shop building. Projects will be completed as money becomes available from the Legislature as additional funding to supplement the operating budget must be acquired.

Table 7
Oasis State Park Expenditures

Fiscal Year	Budget	Expenditures
FY98	\$99,800	\$76,701
FY97	\$91,678	\$112,260
FY96	\$99,262	\$80,596
FY95	\$96,569	\$70,485
FY94	\$66,052	\$77,468
Total	\$453,361	\$417,510

B. STAFFING & VOLUNTEERS

Staffing. The park is currently staffed with two full-time employees, a Park Manager and a Park Ranger I. During the summer months, two seasonal laborers are hired to help with care of the park. One seasonal laborer is hired to help during the fall/winter period. The necessity for a third full-time employee, possibly a Ranger, is critical. Appendix F shows the current staff.

Volunteers and Other Groups. With the current full-time staff at OSP, volunteers are essential to help operate the park. The camp host is located at the Indian Grass Campground to greet and assist visitors. There is a need for volunteer laborers that perform maintenance work. Once the amphitheater is developed, volunteers will be needed as guest speakers. Boy Scouts, youth groups, and civic organizations have played an important role in a variety of park construction and maintenance projects. This source of labor is most valuable. With careful planning and supervision, these groups will continue to be an important asset to the park.

With the help of "Clovis Beautiful" and "Pride in Portales," OSP has developed a small, informal friends group whose purpose is to support the park. Current members, although supportive, are people who typically do not visit the park. To increase membership of this friends group, invitations will be extended to park visitors, particularly those in position to offer time, resources and insights that will enhance the spectrum and quality of services delivered by the park.

APPENDIX A. Current Park Facilities

CAMPGROUNDS

Campground (old name)	Location/sites	Bathroom Facilities
Indian Grass (Electric)	Located on the south side of the park. 13 level electric and water sites. Volunteer camp host site. All are pull-through sites.	Near restrooms with showers.
Cottonwood (Developed)	Located in center of park. 6 developed camp sites with water.	Near restrooms with showers.
Hideaway (North side)	Located on north side of Park, adjacent to office. 4 developed campsites with water.	Near restroom with showers.

Other Park Facilities

- 1 Group Shelter
- 1 Dump Station
- 1 Pay Station
- 1 Office/Shop
- 1 Equipment Shed
- 1 Staff Residence
- 2 Wells & Well Houses
- 1 Playground
- 4 Vault Toilets Located at Lake

APPENDIX B. Maps of Oasis State Park and Region 4

APPENDIX C. Copy of current Brochure

APPENDIX D. CLSP Equipment

Field

Vehicles

- A. Pickup
 Mfg Dodge
 Year 1993
 Model Ram 250-D
 License GO5897
 VIN 1B7KE26Z7PS233450
 Fuel Propane-unleaded
 Maintenance Reference: VEMR and
 Manufactures Manuals
 Replace FY03
- B. Pickup
 Mfg Ford
 Year 84
 Model Ranger
 License G17274
 VIN 1FTBR10A1EUD50648
 Fuel Unleaded
 Maintenance Reference: VEMR and
 Manufactures Manuals
 Replace FY02
- C. Utility vehicle with trailer
 Mfg John Deere
 Year 99
 Model Gator 6x4
 VIN W006X4X035851
 Fuel Unleaded
 Maintenance Reference: VEMR and
 Maintenance Manuals
 Replace 10 Years

- E. Welder
 Mfg Miller

Heavy Equipment

- A. Tractor
 Mfg International
 Year 1984
 Model 884
 VIN 330913BTX
 Replace FY01

Trailers

- A. 2 utility trailers
- B. Trash compactor
 Mfg Wayne Engineering
 Year 1980
 Model Pup
 License G05802
 Serial # 10062
 Replace Turn-in FY00

Miscellaneous Equipment

- A. Lawn mower
 Mfg Troy Built
 Model 34066
- B. Lawn mower
 Mfg John Deere
 Model
- C. Air compressor
 Mfg Sears
 Model 919.153531
- D. Pressure washer
 Mfg Adalin
 Model 532 G

Model HD720618

F. Auger
Mfg John Deere
Model

G. Bush mower
Mfg John Deere
Model 603

Office Equipment

Office items identified valued over \$500

- 1 DTK Computer
- 1 Hewlett Packard Laser Jet 5L Printer
- 1 Sharp Fax FO-245
- 1 Konica 1290E Copy Machine
- 1 Base Radio

APPENDIX E. Cultural Resource Protection Laws

The following cultural resource protection laws are applicable to Oasis 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 of the human remains of a Native American for sale or profit. 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

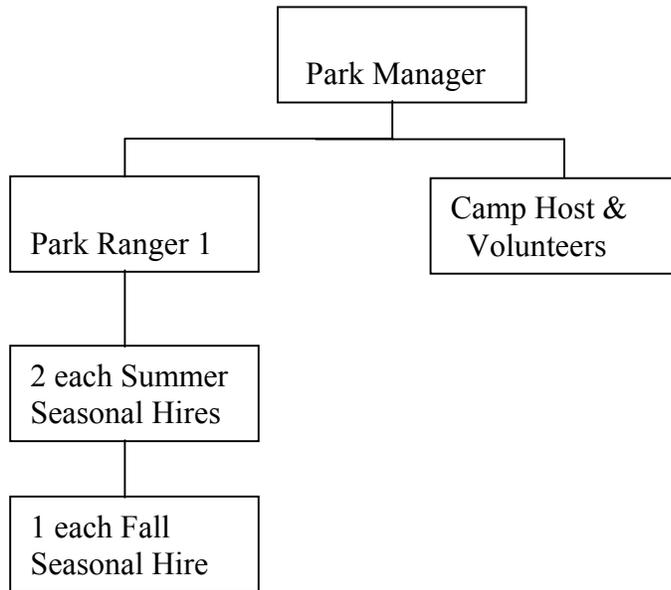
New Mexico Cultural Properties Act, NMSA 1978 § 18-6-1 to 18-6-17. This act recognizes that the historical and cultural heritage of the state as one of the state's most valued and important assets. It indicates that the neglect, desecration and destruction of historical and cultural sites, structures, 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 1978, § 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 1978, § 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 HPD to ensure that cultural properties are not inadvertently damaged or destroyed.

APPENDIX F. Oasis State Park Organization Chart

CURRENT



PROPOSED

