



New Mexico State Parks

**Proposed Mesilla Valley Bosque
Transition**

State Parks & the Department of Game and Fish

State Parks and Game and Fish have maintained a close partnership for many years:

- Sharing resources – staffing, funding, programming
- Similar missions of connecting people to the outdoors
- Resource management responsibilities



Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Park Background

- Established in 2008
- Partnership of local community partners
- Education and outreach key to the park
- Resource protection projects

Department of Game and Fish--a partner from the beginning

- Game and Fish owns a substantial amount of MVBSP
- Joint Powers Agreement between both agencies
- Game and Fish has assisted with staffing in the past



Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

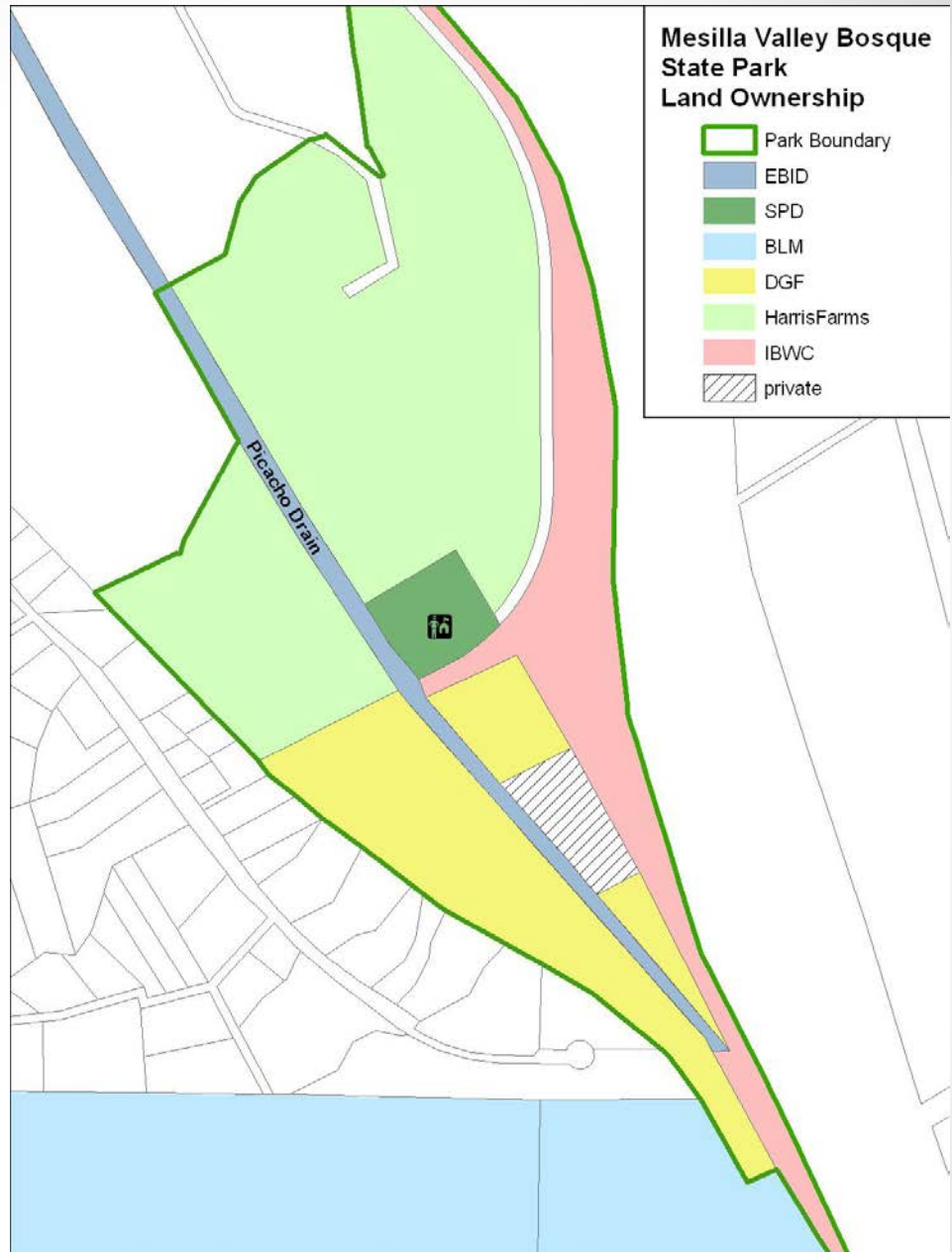
The Park consists of:

- A visitor center with exhibits
- 2 Classrooms
- A garden and courtyard
- Office space
- Trails



Land Ownership

- State Parks – 13.39 acres
- Game and Fish – 48.23 acres
- Harris Farms – 142.71 acres (conservation easement)
- International Boundary and Water Commission – 48.83 acres
- Elephant Butte Irrigation District – 11.6 acres



Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Statistics

Staffing

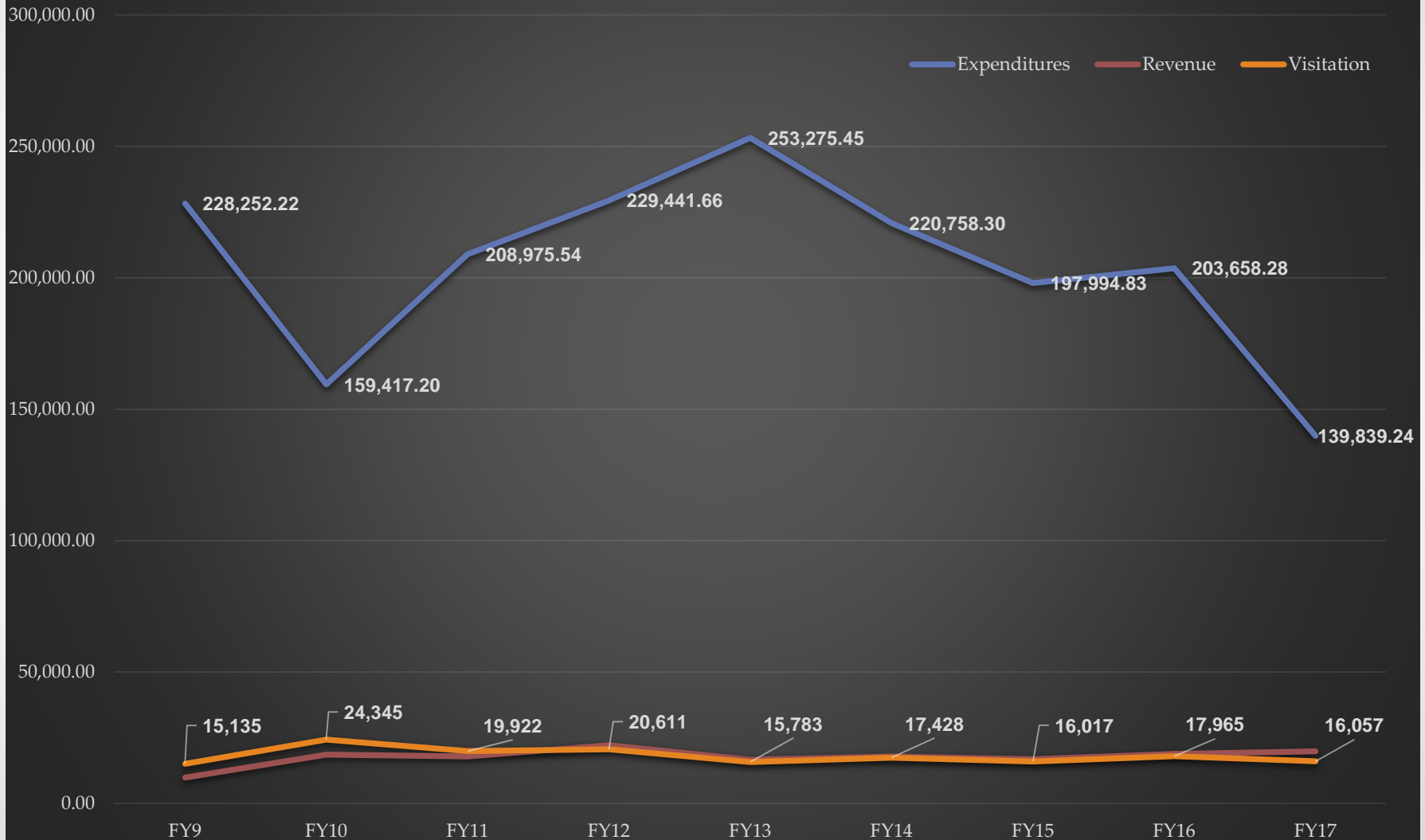
- 4 Permanent Staff and 2 seasonals by FY13
- 1 Permanent Staff and 1 seasonal in FY17
- State Parks has experienced staffing cuts to keep pace with \$3.6 million budget cuts since FY13

Volunteers

- 12 active volunteers currently assist the park



Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park Expenditures, Revenue and Visitation FY9-FY17



Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Statistics

Educational Programming

FY	Outdoor Educational Programs	Program Attendance	Number of Students
12	352	5810	4164
13	309	3330	958
14	228	3742	1867
15	106	1948	866
16	114	1267	1087
17	19	861	344

Proposed Transition

State Parks has been in discussions with Department of Game and Fish regarding transition to save the state money and best deploy resources.

This would mean that the property would:

- Become a Game and Fish property
- Be open and free to the public (MVSP entry currently \$5 / vehicle)
- Hire 11 Game and Fish staff to include an educator



Proposed Transition

Game and Fish would:

- Continue existing educational programming and increase programming to connect people to the outdoors
- Continue partnerships with Friends, volunteers and other agencies, to include State Parks
- Maintain and upgrade trail system
- Provide capital upgrades



Proposed Transition

State Parks would:

- Deploy single staff member from MVBSP to assist at other parks in SW region that are understaffed
- Continue to partner with Mesilla Valley and Department of Game and Fish, particularly in joint-programming from Leasburg Dam State Park

Public Outreach

State Parks and Game and Fish has reached out to the public and will continue to interface with the public

- 3 meetings with State Parks volunteers (April 4, May 2, July 22, 2017)
- Meeting with Audubon staff member and Southwest Environmental Center Executive (April 4, 2017)
- Open House at MVBSP (July 22, 2017)
- 30 day public comment period (July 22-August 25)

Additional Open House at MVBSP is planned for October 1, 2017



Key Benefits

This transition would:

- **Keep Mesilla Valley free and open to the public**
- **Increase programming**
- **Protect resources**
- **Better deploy both state and federal funds between two state agencies**