

# NEW MEXICO STATE PARKS



## OUR MISSION:

**Protect and enhance natural and cultural resources, provide first-class recreational and educational facilities and opportunities, and promote public safety to benefit and enrich the lives of visitors.**

*A Division of the Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department*



# WHO WE ARE...

Tied to communities in  
23 Counties

35 parks statewide,  
including  
19 lakes and 191,586  
acres of land and water

(5) Region Offices,  
Warehouse,  
Headquarters

Serve on average over 5  
million visitors annually

70% of New Mexicans  
live within 40 miles of a  
state park

State Parks' visitation  
positively impacts rural  
economies throughout  
New Mexico.

236 FTE; 191 FTE Staff;  
45 FTE support 136  
seasonals



# WHAT WE DO...

State Parks are made up of 35 separate entities, each similar to small municipalities consisting of:



**Public Safety**



**Buildings & Facilities**



**Public Education**



**Resource Protection**



**Utilities & Infrastructure**



**Public/Private  
Business Partnerships**



**Grounds & Roadways**



**Vehicles & Equipment**



**Economic Development**



# Local Partnerships



Village of  
Logan  
Best Little Village by a Dam Site



*Storrie Project Water Users Association*



# State Partnerships



NEW MEXICO

STATE LAND OFFICE



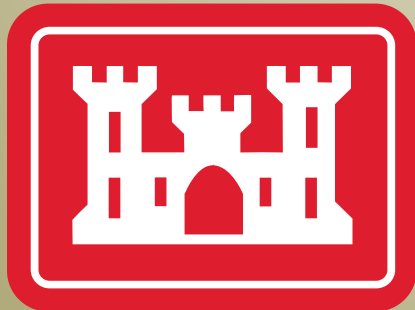
*New Mexico* DEPARTMENT OF  
**TRANSPORTATION**  
*MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE*



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

New Mexico Historic Preservation Division

# Federal Partnerships



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION



# Business Partnerships



# NEW FEE STRUCTURE

- New fees went into effect on January 1, 2025
- We now have separate rates for residents and non-residents
- New Pass for Active-duty Military
- Free Day-Use for New Mexico residents from October 1 to April 30 every year





# VETERANS LIFETIME PASS – HB 161

- Unanimously passed through the State Legislature and signed by Governor Lujan Grisham
- Took effect July 1, 2025
- Provides for a Lifetime Veteran Pass for all New Mexico resident veterans and covers all day-use, camping, and campsite utilities fees
- Currently 5,046 Lifetime Veteran Passes Issued by Dept. of Veteran Services



The graphic features a scenic background of a campsite at sunrise. A tent is pitched in the foreground, and a person stands on a grassy hill in the distance. The New Mexico State Parks logo is at the top. The text 'NEW MEXICO STATE PARKS LIFETIME VETERANS' PASS' is centered in a white outline. At the bottom, it says 'STARTS JULY 1, 2025! APPLY NOW AT NMDVS.ORG' next to the Department of Veteran Services logo.

**NEW MEXICO STATE PARKS**

**NEW MEXICO STATE PARKS  
LIFETIME  
VETERANS'  
PASS**

**STARTS JULY 1, 2025! APPLY NOW AT [NMDVS.ORG](https://www.nmdvs.org)**

# We Provide Great Job Opportunities in Rural New Mexico!

- We have positions across the State Park system for Law Enforcement, Administration, Technicians, Maintenance, Seasonals, Volunteers, and more!
- Find our job postings on our website, State Personnel Office website, LinkedIn, or our Facebook page







# New Mexico State Parks Economic Impact and Contribution Analysis FY 2019-2024



Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University prepared an analysis of the economic and social benefits of New Mexico State Parks for fiscal years 2019-2024. The purpose of this analysis is to estimate the benefits of New Mexico State Park's operations, associated visitor spending, and social benefits in New Mexico for fiscal years 2019-2024.

# Purpose

- Arrowhead Center at New Mexico State University prepared an analysis of the economic and social benefits of New Mexico State Parks for fiscal years 2019-2024.
- The purpose of this analysis was to estimate the benefits of New Mexico State Parks' expenditures, associated visitor spending, and social benefits in New Mexico for fiscal years 2019-2024.



# Summary

- In all years studied, economic contributions from New Mexico State Parks were significantly higher than State Park expenditures due to the follow-on effects resulting from visitor spending.
- New Mexico State Parks also delivered significant nonmarket benefits through recreation and conservation uses.

# Summary

- ★ In 2024, economic activity associated with New Mexico State Parks:
  - Supported 5,120 total jobs in New Mexico
  - Contributed \$266 million to state GDP
  - \$511 million in revenue to businesses in New Mexico
  - \$162 million in labor income
  - \$40 million in state and local taxes in New Mexico



## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

STATE PARK VISITORS  
5,288,821

VISITOR SPENDING  
\$320.6M

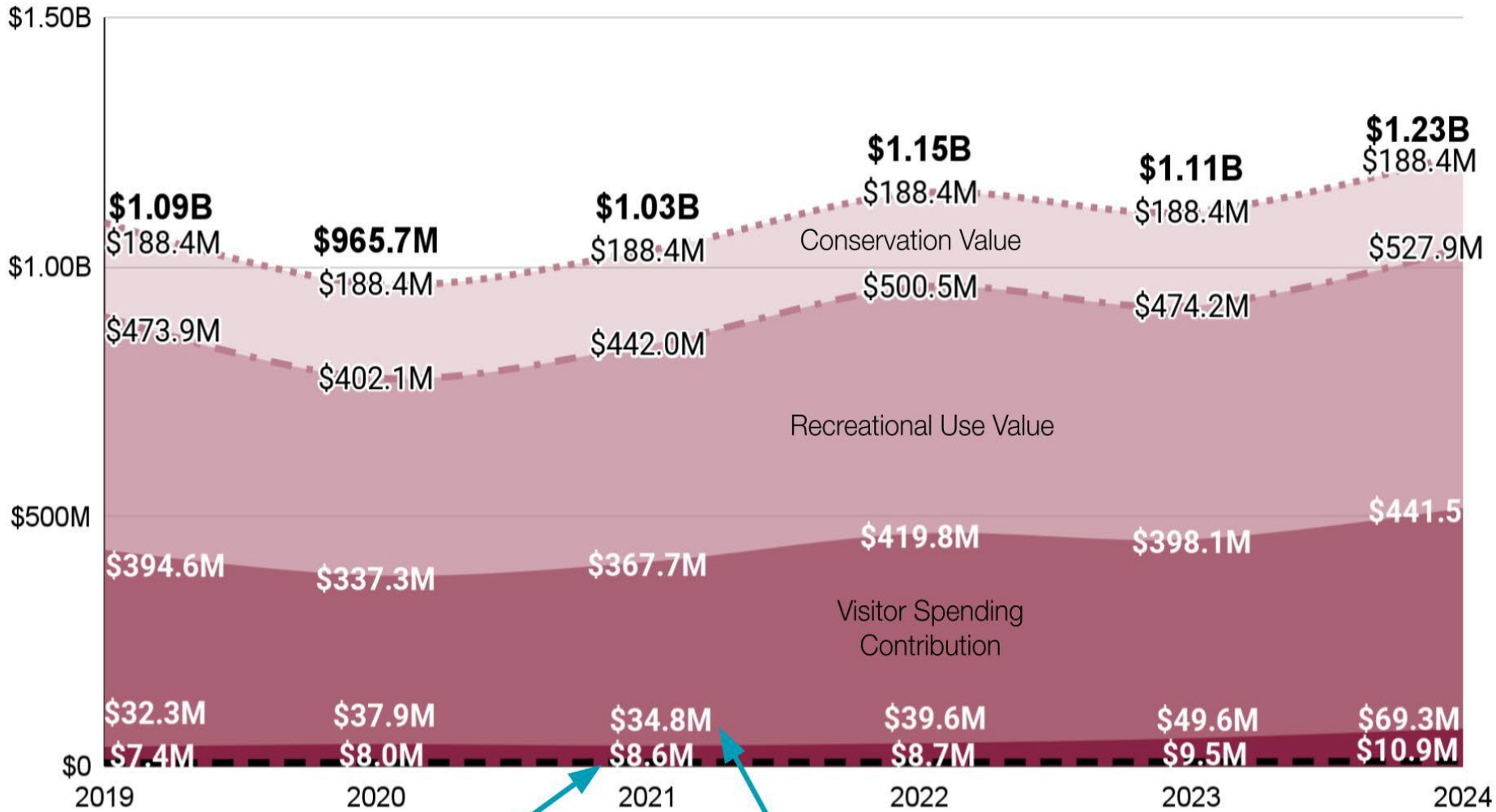
ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION  
\$510.8M

ECONOMIC IMPACT  
\$34.8M

CONSERVATION VALUE  
\$188.4M

RECREATIONAL USE VALUE  
\$527.9M

State Parks General Fund
  Conservation Value
  Recreational Use Value
  Visitor Spending
  Expenditures



↗ State Park General Fund  
↘ Expenditure Contribution



# Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Established in 1964, LWCF is a federal funding program that supports outdoor recreation, land conservation, and public access to nature.

## Goals:

- Expand parks, trails, and recreation facilities
- Protect natural and cultural landscapes
- Promote equitable access to outdoor spaces
- Support local, state, and tribal projects through pass-through grants

**New Mexico's Role:** State Parks Division serves as the designated agency to market the program, manage applications, and coordinate with federal partners.





# LWCF Funding Mechanism

## Funding Source:

- Permanently funded through federal offshore oil and gas leasing revenues
- No taxpayer dollars used

## How Funds Are Distributed:

- Stateside Program includes:
  - Formula Grants based on state population
  - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) for underserved urban areas
  - States must maintain a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to remain eligible

## How Communities Access Funds:

- Municipalities, tribal governments, and state subdivisions apply through New Mexico State Parks
- State Parks develops the SCORP, sets annual application and scoring processes, and works with NPS and other states
- New Mexico's LWCF team includes:
  - State Liaison Officer: Ben Shelton, EMNRD Deputy Cabinet Secretary
  - Alternate SLOs: Robert Stokes and Nav Khalsa



## NM's Annual Apportionments from NPS

Every year, each state and territory receives notice of apportionment from the NPS-LWCF to use for project awards over three federal fiscal year cycles

### For the last five years, New Mexico has been allocated:

- 2021: \$3,328,933
- 2022: \$3,057,906
- 2023: \$3,193,100
- 2024: \$3,510,000
- 2025: \$4,650,000

*Total: \$17,739,939 Average: \$3,547,987 per year*

### Since 2021, we've reallocated through Formula grant awards:




- \$5,926,620 (\$1,708,336 for three State Park projects and \$4,218,284 for thirteen community projects, with more pending NPS approval)

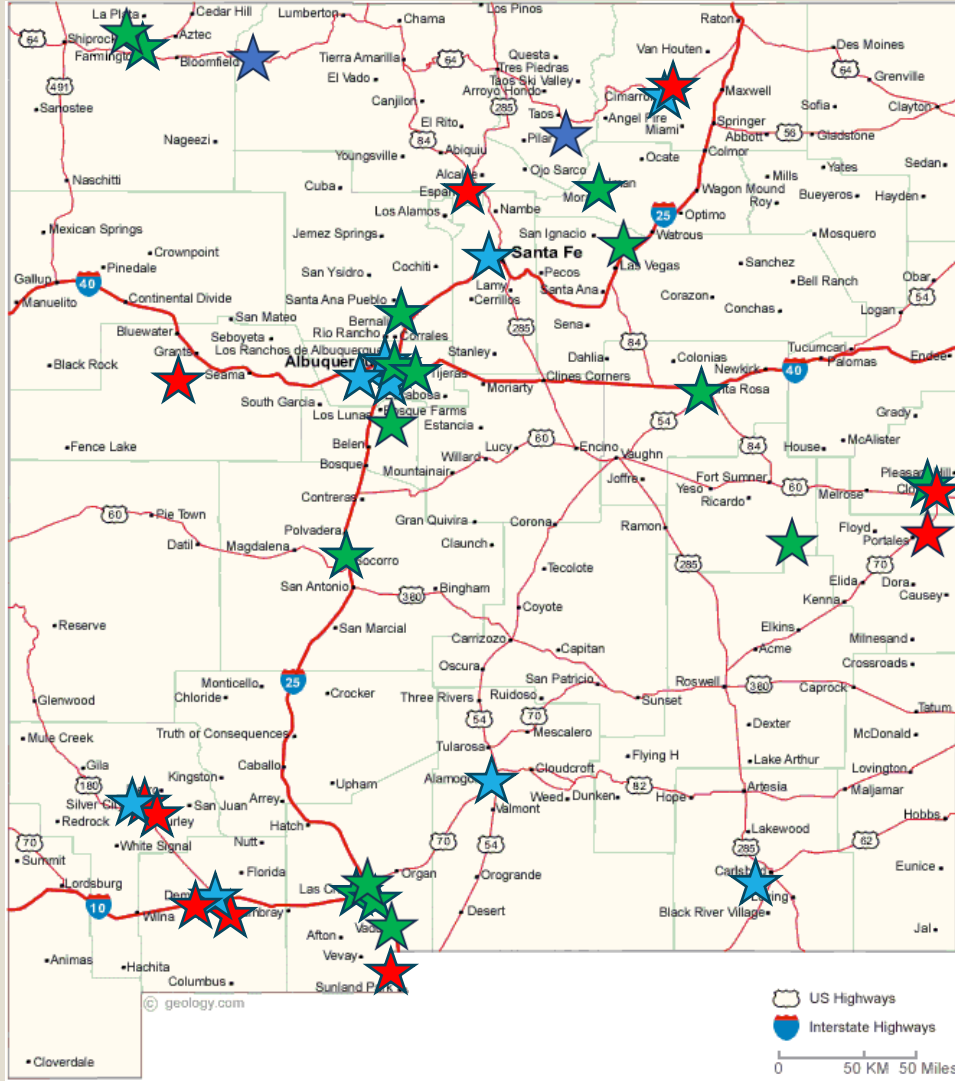
### For the 2021-2025 application periods, we've received:

- 2021: 13 Formula applications (two were from Pueblos), 1 ORLP (selected and funded by the NPS)
- 2022: 14 Formula applications
- 2023: 5 Formula applications
- 2024: 7 Formula applications (3 from the Town of Taos), 2 ORLP (one selected by NPS); awaiting reviews by NPS for funding
- **2025: Application period open from August 8, 2025, through January 6, 2026**

# 2021-Present Formula and ORLP application locations

2021: 13 Formula, 1 ORLP  
 2022: 14 Formula  
 2023: 5 Formula  
 2024: 7 Formula, 2 ORLP  
 2025: Applications now

-  In Process or pending
-  Awarded
-  Withdrawn





# Sedillo Park Lighting Improvements Socorro, NM

- Project completed August 2025
- **Scope:** Demolish and remove older poles and lights, and dispose of existing electrical panels; install energy-efficient LED light poles, and replace electrical wiring
- **LWCF Funding:** \$342,504
- **Total Project Cost:** \$797,908





## Recent Updates:

- State of New Mexico Apportionment for Federal FY2025 is \$4,640,000
- Senate Bill 169 - *LWCF State Supplemental Match Fund* - \$8,000,000 available to provide LWCF matching funds to eligible applicants
- State Parks oversees this state program, and applicants can easily apply for these matching funds in the current LWCF application



Gracias!

