

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Dylan Fuge, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Toby Velasquez, State Parks Division Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact:

Wendy Mason
Marketing & Public Relations Manager
NM State Parks Division
wendy.mason@emnrd.nm.gov
505-819-1785



Sidney Hill
Public Information Officer, EMNRD
sidney.hill@emnrd.nm.gov
505-629-2900

January 5, 2024

Eagle Nest Lake and Fenton Lake State Parks open to ice fishing

Eagle Nest, NM – Experience the unique sport of ice fishing now at Eagle Nest Lake and Fenton Lake State Parks! The [State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department](#) (EMNRD) announces that walk-in ice fishing is currently allowed on the lakes. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on the ice.

State Parks officials remind visitors to consider the following safety precautions before going ice fishing:

- **Don't fish alone.** Before you leave shore, inform someone of your destination and expected time of return.
- **Lifejackets Save Lives.** Always wear a lifejacket (personal flotation device).
- **Be aware of and prepared for weather conditions.** Dress in layers and wear thermal underwear, fleece or wool, and wind and waterproof outerwear, especially for feet, hands, and head. Take extra clothes, food, water, etc.
- **Keep fishing holes small and few.** When drilling fishing holes with an ice auger, keep the diameter under eight inches. Bigger holes are not necessary to land fish and can create a safety hazard for others.

- **Watch your step.** Avoid ice fishing near feeder streams or known springs; brush, logs, plants, or docks; pressure ridges, cracks, or ice that is popping or otherwise audible; and dark colored ice that may be weak. Ice spikes are recommended for self-rescue.
- **Spread out.** Too many people congregated in one area may be more than the ice can safely support. Disperse weight and fishing holes.

For more information and updates about ice conditions, please contact [Eagle Nest Lake State Park](#) at (575) 377-1594 or [Fenton Lake State Park](#) at (575) 829-3630. Additional information about fishing is available on the Department of Game and Fish website [wildlife.state.nm.us](#). The Eagle Nest Lake State Park campground is closed for the season. Fenton Lake State Park has a small selection of reservation-only camping available.

Ready for warmer weather? We're booking for Memorial Day and Independence Day now! Reserve your camping space up to six months in advance at any of your 35 New Mexico State Parks through [reserveamerica.com](#) or our website [emnrd.nm.gov](#).



(Figure 1) Pressure ridges in the ice, pictured here, are extremely dangerous and should always be avoided even by anglers walking. Photo: NM State Parks.



(Figure 2) Pressure ridges can sometimes be up to a mile in size. Photo: NM State Parks.

###

iVAMOS! LET'S GO NEW MEXICO!

Follow us!



###

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and resource development services to the public and other state agencies. Learn more at <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov>