

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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State Parks Division Announces Multi-Year Campaign at Hyde Memorial State Park

SANTA FE: Today, New Mexico State Parks, a division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), announced the *Next Generation of Adventure* campaign aimed at enhancing the visitor experience and increasing visitation by upgrading facilities, adding interpretive programs, improving technology, and working with partners across New Mexico. EMNRD was honored to be joined by Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales, Tourism Deputy Cabinet Secretary Antoinette Vigil, and State Parks Director Christy Tafoya at Hyde Memorial State Park for the event.

Hyde Memorial State Park was the perfect location for the event as one of our first modernization projects involves adding a solar-powered microgrid at the Park to replace a faulty electric line. Not only will the microgrid provide reliable energy for the park but it is a great example of inter-department collaboration. The State Parks Division worked with EMNRD's Energy Conservation and Management Division to study the area and install the microgrid.

The *Next Generation of Adventure* is a multi-year campaign to modernize our State Park system in a number of ways, creating new opportunities for more people to connect with the outdoors. One of the first projects will be implementing Wi-Fi throughout the park system, allowing State Parks to accept credit cards and reduce staff time collecting cash payments. Wi-Fi will also allow for new, easier ways to book campsites throughout the system. State Parks will also tackle our maintenance backlog by upgrading facilities, improving trails, and adding new cabins and water access.

Outdoor recreation is a priority for Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's administration, and to that end, the *Next Generation of Adventure* will grow our State Parks system, improve signage and bilingual materials, and expand educational programming by partnering with local communities, Tribes, nonprofit organizations, and local communities. This collaboration was on full display with representatives from the New Mexico Tourism Department and the Economic Development Department participating in the event.

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“New Mexicans have a strong connection to the land. Our State Parks provide a safe, clean place for families to connect with the land and with the outdoors. The *Next Generation of Adventure* will make our State Parks a premier system across the country,” said Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales.

“The 34 State Parks in our system are already incredible places to hike, camp, fish, and enjoy the outdoors. EMNRD strives to always do better and improve state government,” said Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “By leveraging our partnerships, updating our facilities and systems, and harnessing new technology, we can make New Mexico State Parks a leader across the West and the country.”

Stay tuned for additional announcements as part of the *Next Generation of Adventure* will be rolled out over the next few years.

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

<http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us>



Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales joins Secretary Cottrell Propst.



Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales talks about his pride in being a New Mexican. (Picture provided by Economic Development Department)



Tourism Deputy Secretary Antoinette Vigil discuss the close partnership between State Parks and the Tourism Department.



State Parks Director Christy Tafoya discusses the Next Generation of Adventure.



Energy Conservation and Management Division Director Louise Martinez; Secretary Cottrell Propst; State Parks Director Christy Tafoya visit the spot where the new solar-panel microgrid will be installed.