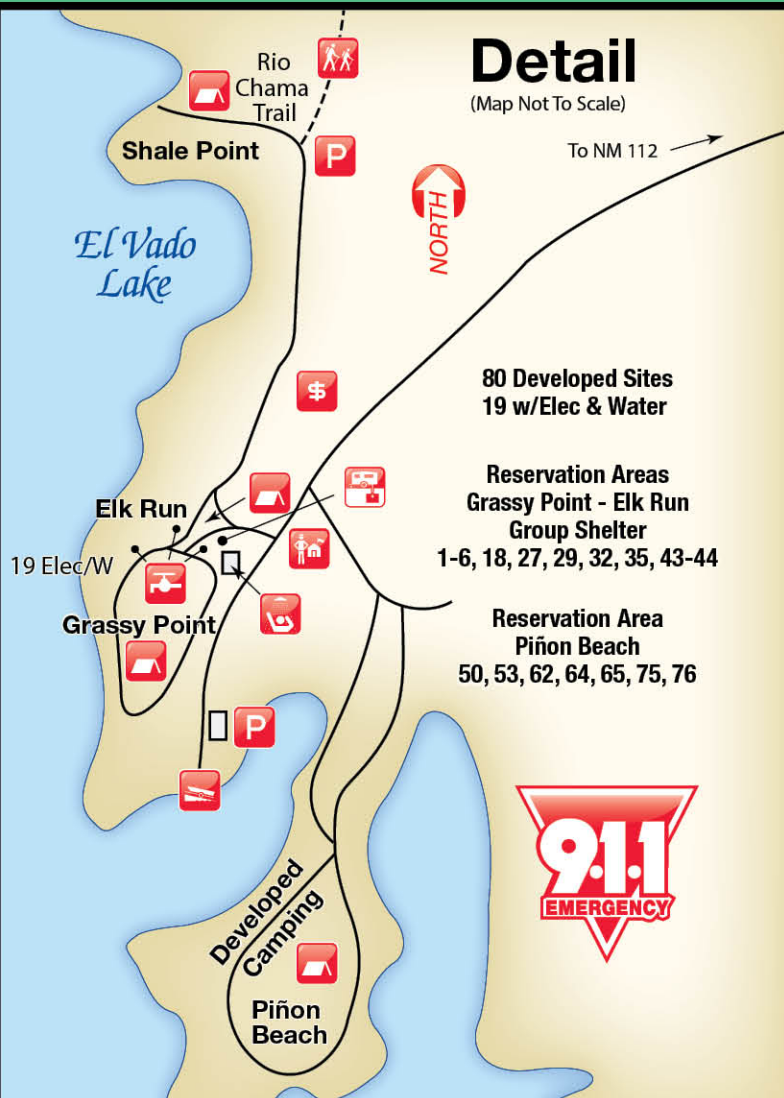
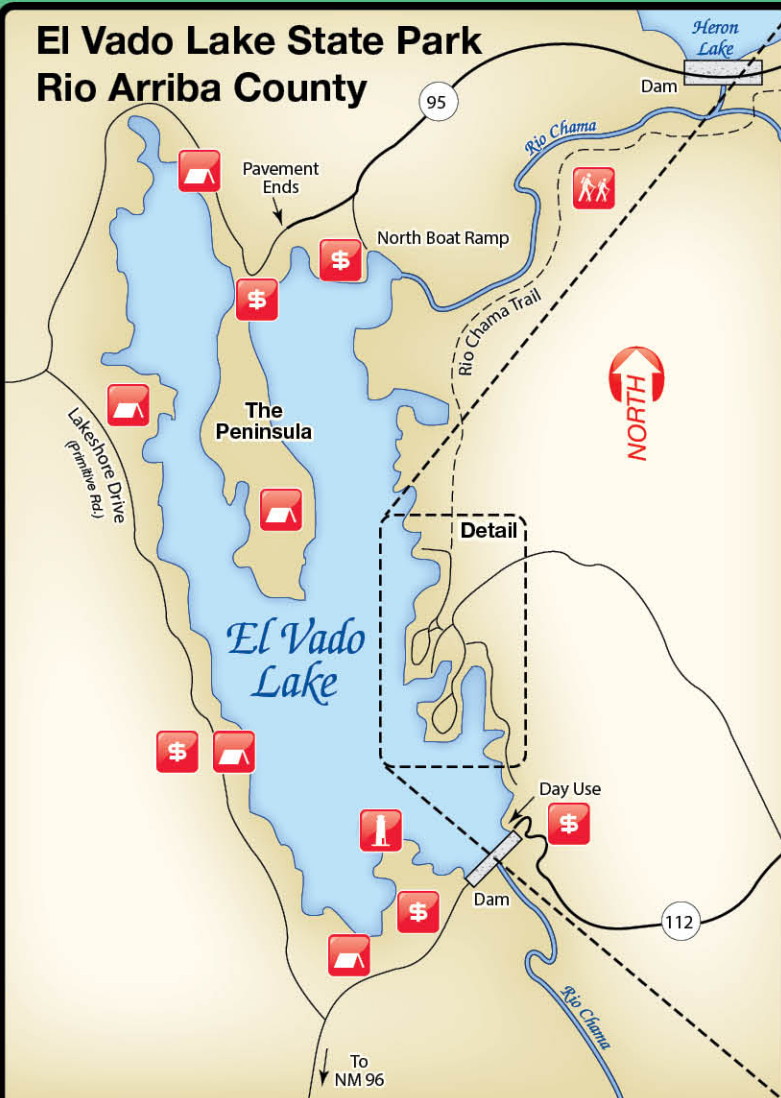


# El Vado Lake State Park Rio Arriba County



## Detail

(Map Not To Scale)

To NM 112

80 Developed Sites  
19 w/Elec & Water

Reservation Areas  
Grassy Point - Elk Run  
Group Shelter  
1-6, 18, 27, 29, 32, 35, 43-44

Reservation Area  
Piñon Beach  
50, 53, 62, 64, 65, 75, 76



www.emnrd.nm.gov

### Emergency Numbers

Police, Fire, Ambulance..... 911  
State Police Dispatch..... 505-425-6711  
Rio Arriba Sheriff's Dispatch... 575-753-5555  
Game & Fish..... 575-756-2343  
Nearest Medical Facility..... 575-588-7252

# Heron Lake State Park El Vado Lake State Park

New Mexico State Parks Division  
Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Department  
Reservations: 1-877-664-7787 • www.reserveamerica.com

Heron: HC-75 Box 1051  
Los Ojos, NM 87551  
(575) 588-7470

El Vado: P.O. Box 611  
Tierra Amarilla, NM 87575  
(575) 588-7247



## Heron Lake State Park Rio Arriba County



### Mileage Chart

Los Ojos to Chama..... 10 miles  
Los Ojos to Dulce..... 28 miles  
Los Ojos to Espanola..... 58 miles  
Los Ojos to Pagosa Springs..... 59 miles  
Los Ojos to Alamosa..... 89 miles  
Los Ojos to Durango..... 119 miles

### Points of Interest

- Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad
- Tierra Wools
- Carson National Forest
- Rio Grande National Forest
- Santa Fe National Forest

### LEGEND

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Parking             | Hiking Trail       |
| Dump Station        | Boat Ramp          |
| Restrooms           | Marina             |
| Water Hydrants      | Primitive Camping  |
| Group Shelter       | Park Office        |
| Pay Station         | Developed Sites    |
| Showers             | Electrical Hookups |
| Wind Warning Light  | Bench              |
| Handicap Accessible |                    |



**POLICE & MEDICAL  
EMERGENCIES  
DIAL 911**

### Heron Lake

Set among the tall ponderosa pines of the Chama Valley, Heron Lake is the perfect place for a weekend getaway or family vacation. Heron Reservoir has been designated a "quiet lake" where motorboats may operate at no more than trolling speed. Mild breezes make the lake ideal for sailing and windsurfing. Summer fishing for record-size trout and salmon is popular and during winter hearty anglers try to catch the "big one" through the layer of ice that covers the lake. Great hiking is nearby on the Rio Chama Trail.

### Camping

Many scenic campgrounds line the southwest shore. Willow Creek, the most popular site, provides a dump station, water faucet and restroom. Several of the campsites at Willow Creek have electric and water connections, others have grills and picnic tables. Over 100 developed sites can be found at Brushy Point, Island View, Ridge Rock and Ponderosa campgrounds. Primitive campsites dot the area west of the dam's spillway. Paved boat ramps are located at Willow Creek and the southwest end of the lake at La Laja.

### The Dam

As early as World War I, New Mexicans began thinking of ways to divert the waters of the San Juan River Basin to the arid Rio Grande Basin. Finally, in the late 1960's, the Bureau of Reclamation began work on what was called the San Juan-Chama Diversion Project. Completed in 1972, the system transports some 110,000 acre feet of water from the mountains of Colorado, across the continental divide through miles of underground tunnels. The water ends up at Heron Lake where it is collected behind the 1250-foot-long dam. When it is needed downstream, water is released into the Rio Chama and flows to the Rio Grande where it services much of the state.

### El Vado Lake

Heron Lake's neighbor to the south, El Vado Lake, offers a full spectrum of water sport activities from waterskiing to motorboating. Quiet coves around the lake are great places to catch trout and salmon. Individual campsites with covered picnic tables provide an ideal setting for get-togethers with family and friends. For the naturalist, quality hiking is as close as the Rio Chama Trail.

**Swim at your own risk.  
No lifeguards on duty.**

### Campground Rules for Heron/El Vado Lake State Parks

**It is your responsibility to be familiar with our rules and regulations.**

For additional information, please contact a park ranger. A complete list of park regulations is available at the Visitor Center.

- Children 12 years old and younger must wear a Type I, II or III U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD while underway unless they are below deck or in an enclosed cabin.
- Fees are payable immediately upon occupying a campsite.
- All vehicles must be parked within each designated campsite.
- CHECK-OUT TIME is 2:00 p.m. To extend your camping stay, fees are required to be paid by 11:00 a.m.
- There is a limit of two (2) vehicles per campsite. Each vehicle must pay a camping fee.
- All motorboats and sailboats must be registered and numbered.
- No firearms permitted in the park. (Except for legal waterfowl hunting seasons.) This includes bows, pellet guns and BB guns.
- Pets shall be kept under physical restraint and be attended to at all times. Leashes must not exceed 10 feet in length.
- When leaving your campsite for the day, please leave something to demonstrate occupancy.
- All vessels are subject to inspection and must be properly equipped.
- Washing vehicles or boats is not permitted.
- ATVs, UTVs, mini-bikes, and off-road motorcycles are not allowed to operate in the park.
- QUIET HOURS ARE FROM 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Radios, stereos and generators must be turned off.
- No glass containers on beaches, picnic areas or campgrounds.

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 Colorado New Mexico  
 Dulce Chama Los Ojos  
 Heron Lake State Park El Vado Lake State Park  
 Cuba To Santa Fe  
**Heron Lake State Park**  
 Village of Chama  
 Los Ojos  
 Brazos River  
 Tierra Amarilla  
 To Village of Chama  
 To Santa Fe  
 To Taos  
 To Dulce  
 To Antonito, CO  
 TACOS y mas  
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