



# san luis state park

FY 06-07 PARK FACTS

## about the park

San Luis State Park is in the heart of the world's largest inhabited alpine valley. It is 15 miles from the headquarters of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Reserve, adjoining at the park's eastern boundary. The natural lake of this high-altitude oasis is nestled near eight of Colorado's famous 14,000-foot mountains and offers spectacular scenic opportunities. This body of water is the warmest in the San Luis Valley, and is a great location for water sports including fishing, swimming, boating, sailing, water-skiing and personal watercraft use. Waterfowl, shorebirds, songbirds and raptors fill the sky over this outstanding watchable wildlife area most of the year. In addition, big game such as deer and elk can be seen roaming the surrounding rangeland. Bison are found at the nearby Rocky Mountain Bison Ranch. San Luis State Park also features a modern campground with showers and electricity, plus great picnicking and photographic opportunities.

**total visitation, FY 06-07**  
(July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007)

19,497

**county**

Alamosa

**congressional district**

3

**state legislative districts**

Senate 5

House 62

**year became  
a state park**

1993

**ownership**

0% State Parks

100% other

**land acres**

136 acres

**water acres**

450 acres



## top attractions

- San Luis State Park offers one of the most serene and spectacular scenic opportunities in the region, with the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Reserve and the Sangre de Cristo mountain range to the east.
- San Luis Lake at 7,500 feet in elevation is the warmest body of water in the San Luis Valley and is a popular destination with the local community for water contact sports.
- The park's north border is shared with the Colorado Division of Wildlife's San Luis Lakes Wildlife Area and The Nature Conservancy's Zapata-Medano Ranch which offers a variety of unique wildlife species including bison, elk and sandhill cranes.

## park inventory

**miles of road**

paved 3.0

unpaved 3.0

**miles of trails**

hiking/biking 4.0

**number of boat ramps**

1

**number of campsites**

51

**number of cabins/yrts**

0

**number of picnic sites**

27

**concessions at the park**

camp store

**major buildings/structures**

entrance station

three comfort stations

park headquarters/maintenance

shop/park residence

campground shower building



## contact information

San Luis State Park • Park Manager: John Brandstatter • PO Box 150 • Mosca, CO • 81146 • 719-378-2020 • sanluis.park@state.co.us • www.parks.state.co.us •

# challenges

- The establishment of a viable fishery has been an ongoing challenge since the park's inception in 1993. Our hope is to implement a new fishery plan providing there is significant winter snowpack and a wet spring to supply the lake with adequate water for warm water species survivability.
- In early FY 04-05 we drained the park's lake to kill invasive carp species. The lake has not yet returned to a water level suitable for boat launching or restocking the fisheries, however, carp in the lake have made a significant comeback.
- A full-time ranger is necessary to provide the full range of visitor services to the public so the park can have the opportunity to realize the full potential of revenue and visitation projections. If we continue to leave this position vacant the park's full potential cannot be reached and will also degrade the full potential of the parent park as resources continue to be depleted to operate this satellite area. Certifications in water system operation, full law enforcement authority and a consistent level of supervision and management are difficult to achieve with the high turnover of seasonal staff.

## budget and operations

### number of full-time employees

0.5

### number of seasonal employees\*

2.0

\*seasonal employees are hired for periods up to six months in length

### number of volunteers\*

86

### total volunteer hours contributed\*

4,972

\*volunteer and volunteer hours figures are from calendar year 2006  
These figures represent a combined total for Lathrop and San Luis.

### total operating budget

\$67,050

### capital construction budget

\$0

### total revenue generated

\$64,018

## partners

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Reserve  
Alamosa County Commissioners  
Alamosa School District  
Adams State College  
Colorado Division of Wildlife  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Bureau of Land Management  
Rio Grande Water Conservation District

Audubon Society  
Monte Vista Wildlife Refuge  
Trout Unlimited  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Alamosa County Sheriff's Department  
State Land Board  
The Nature Conservancy

## volunteer activity

Through various volunteer sources, we recruited a family of volunteers for the summer season who have done everything from campground host to maintenance.

## vision statement for Colorado State Parks

*Colorado State Parks offer exceptional settings for renewal of the human spirit. Residents and visitors enjoy healthy, fun-filled interaction with the natural world, creating rich traditions with family and friends that promote stewardship of our natural resources. Park employees and their partners work together to provide ongoing and outstanding customer service through recreational programs, amenities and services.*

## land acquisitions

### FY 06-07

none

## ratios

### full-time staff to annual visitors

1:38,994

