

From: [Bryan Aragon](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Mexico State Parks Fees Study rule changes
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 4:08:13 PM

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Hello,

I am a resident of New Mexico, I was born and raised here and my family is a regular user of the state parks. We really enjoy going camping at Elephant Butte State Park. We have camped on the beaches and in the developed camp sites. We enjoy our time with family and friends and all that the lake has to offer. But these rate hikes are going to reduce the number of visits we make each summer to the lake. What was once an affordable weekend camping trip to the state park is no longer going to be that.

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Example of Current vs. Proposed Fees

John Smith takes his family camping to Caballo Lake State Park. They stay in a site with full hook ups for three days. What's it going to cost John for the weekend?

Service	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Difference
Developed Camping x 3 nights	\$30.00	\$60.00	\$30.00
Electric hookup x 3 nights	\$12.00	\$30.00	\$18.00
Water hookup x 3 nights	Free	\$30.00	\$30.00
Sewer hookup x 3 nights	\$12.00	\$30.00	\$18.00
TOTAL FOR THE WEEKEND	\$54.00	\$180.00	\$96.00

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This is from the PowerPoint presentation given during the public meetings. A regular weekend trip is going to more than TRIPLE in cost. These proposed camping fees is going to greatly reduce the number of trips we take to the state parks. I was paying \$180 for an annual camping pass, now this is just 1 weekend of camping.

I understand the costs of operating have increased and the rates have been the same for a long time. But maybe the camping fee increases can be made in smaller increments. Increase the camping rates by \$2 the first year, then increase them again

on 2-year increments for a 10-year period. That would get the program to the desired fee schedule.

The proposed dump station fee is very high, most of the neighboring states do not charge for dumping.

In addition, I think the day use fee should remain in place for residents. However, instead of it being a daily fee make it good for multiple days. This will allow residents the opportunity to enjoy the parks at a more leisurely pace and will benefit the local economies supported by the parks.

The residents of New Mexico cannot afford these rate increases as proposed. I think there is a happy median that can be reached. But as it stands now, I ask that you reject these proposed fee increases.

Thank you,
Bryan Aragon