

**From:** [Chad McKenna](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Boat Launch Fee  
**Date:** Friday, March 8, 2024 11:43:48 AM

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Greetings, New Mexico State Parks,

I am happy to support NM State Parks, even with increased fees. I frequently buy two or more annual day passes and am happy to continue, even at a higher fee, especially if it includes the launching fee for small boats.

However I do have some concerns about having a stand alone launching fee for kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, small sailboats and any other non motorized craft. Will the passes be available on a phone app, so I can use it when I'm ready to launch my small boat? Can I buy a yearly launch pass? If not, I'm wondering how a launching fee would be implemented in various scenarios:

1. I'm camping. I've paid the price for a camping spot. If I decide to take my kayak to go paddling, do I now owe a camping fee plus launch fee? Or is it included in the camping fee? If not included, do I need to leave my primitive camping spot and go buy a launch ticket, perhaps miles away? By the time I get back, I may decide it is too windy to go paddling, so do I forfeit my \$5?

2. I live in Laguna Vista, on the northside of Heron Lake (but this could apply to someone at El Vado or other lakes that have residential access) and I decide to launch my small sailboat or kayak one day from the lake access at the bottom of Shroyer Rd. in Laguna Vista. Do I need to drive the 20 mile round trip to a pay station, buy a pass and hope the conditions are favorable/safe by the time I return to launch my small boat?

3. This is another scenario that is most likely for someone with residential or nearby access to a state park lake, but anyone who lives near one of our SP lakes may go out in their small non motorized craft many nice days of the spring, summer, and well into the fall. Some weeks I go out daily, but at \$5.00 per day, the cost could easily amount to over one hundred per year. Do we need to go to a pay station each day? Do we owe \$5.00 for every single time we go out? In my own typical use of my small boats, the daily launch fee for small boats could end up costing a LOT more than the cost of registering a motorized boat which could be used EVERY single day, ALL year long for the three seasons the boat is registered!

Although I visit other NM State Parks, Heron Lake is the one I utilize most. I have been camping at Heron Lake since 1980 and I now have a house where I am retiring to at Heron. I love Heron Lake. My boat is even in the banner photo on the Heron Lake SP website and I am a 40 year member of NM Sailing Club. I am more than happy to support our State Parks and even to pay more for access, but please find a way to make it easy and AFFORDABLE to comply. According to your own document, the income received from small craft launch fees is projected to be less than 1/8 the income received from the Day Use Passes!!!

Please, don't penalize small craft users unfairly. Let us buy a yearly or a monthly "launch pass," or even charge a yearly registration fee for small craft. That way we don't have to know

ahead of time exactly which day will be favorable for SAFE boating in our small boats AND our costs won't be disproportionately high.

Regards, Chad McKenna