

From: [Charles Brunt](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on proposed changes to State Parks Fees
Date: Monday, February 26, 2024 11:15:50 AM

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To: N.M. State Parks
Ref: Proposed Fee Increases

My family has leased/owned a lot in the Rock Canyon area of Elephant Butte State Park for nearly 40 years. Five years ago we replaced our old mobile home on the lot with a very nice, site-built, two-bedroom home to enjoy during our retirement, which began last year. Throughout the past four decades we have maintained and improved our property, and entertained numerous friends and relatives – many from out of state – who probably would never have visited New Mexico otherwise.

While we understand the need for New Mexico State Parks to bring its fees more in line with its stated mission, we believe the proposed fee changes place more of a burden on regular, longtime users of Elephant Butte Lake State Park – and other state lakes - than is fair or warranted.

For example, eliminating the Annual Day Use Pass, currently set at \$40 per year, would force us to pay \$5 every time we launch our boats. I guarantee you that we launch far more than 8 times a year. In fact, because we have a ski boat and a pontoon boat, we often launch more than 8 times in a single week during the summer when we have visitors.

Rather than eliminating the Annual Day Use Pass, we would support a reasonable fee increase – say 25% higher than the current fee.

Also, it is far more convenient for residents to purchase an Annual Day Use Pass once a year than to pay each time we launch our boats.

Secondly, the proposal to nearly TRIPLE Vessel Registration Fees is untenable, especially when you consider that these are the very people who frequent the state's lakes - and support local businesses in doing so. For those of us who have multiple watercrafts, the proposed increases are simply unfair and exorbitant. Again, we understand the need for increasing fees, but tripling them is absolutely unwarranted.

Bear in mind that property owners like us already have seen our property taxes increase.

We agree that New Mexico's state parks are essential to the quality of life for residents and non-residents alike, and that it costs money to maintain them. But it is short-sighted, unfair and unwarranted to place the lion's share of the proposed fee increases on those who have, and continue to, support the state parks and the businesses that depend on our hard-earned dollars.

We'll see you at one of the upcoming "informational" meetings.

Charles D. Brunt
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