From:	Dale Huitt
То:	emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Fee Study Comment
Date:	Friday, March 1, 2024 4:15:50 PM

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First, I am not arbitrarily opposed to fee increases. At times they are required to maintain quality operations and facilities. However, my biggest concerns over the elimination of the Annual Camping Pass and the fee increases is the exclusion of two critical demographics. That of Disabled Veterans and Senior Citizens. In review of the proposals, I see no accommodations for those two groups and they are generally on a fixed income or have received permanent disabling injuries in the service of this Country.

As a Disabled Veteran myself, I purchase an Annual Camping Pass at a reduced rate which provides discounts on camping at State Parks. This is all slated to end with the elimination of the Annual Camping Pass. So, now as a Disabled Veteran and as a Senior Citizen, there are no reduced fees for these two classes in the Proposed Fee Schedule. This is beyond a travesty to our State's Disabled Veterans and Senior Citizens.

If a reduced Annual Camping Pass is no longer going to be offered to Disabled Veterans, what is the proposal to offset costs or provide for reduced camping rates at State Parks for Disabled Veterans and Senior Citizens? Or are these two demographics now going to be required to pay the full camping rates as any other resident?

Thank You, Charles Huitt