From: CHARLES MULLINGS

To: <u>emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD</u>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fee increases

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 8:01:35 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a former park employee and think that users fees are necessary to help with the costs of operation, maintenance and development of the state parks. I don't think that eliminating day use fees for residents and passing the costs on to campers is not equatable. Doubling the fee for campers doesn't prioritize inclusion, diversity and equality in outdoor recreation. There is a cost for accommodating day users. Who pays for the services used (personnel, waste disposal, water use, restroom facilities, etc)? Elimination of the day use fee for residents will increase greatly the non-recreational user. Make a daily and annual day use permits for residents affordable, but don't eliminate.

If there is a problem with collection of fees or abuse of annual permit camping privileges, then address those issues through regulation and operating procedures. The reservation system is equitable for all users, campers and day users. Expand on it. Campers using the parks to "live in" can be managed by changing those rules that allow such use, such as a limiting the number of days a "annual" camp permit can be used.

Don't pass the total burden on to the camper, distribute it equitably to all users.