

From: [Christine Logan](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on proposed State Park fees
Date: Friday, February 16, 2024 3:54:02 PM

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Background: I am a year-round resident of Elephant Butte. I own a pontoon which I keep at a marina and 2 jet skis and 2 kayaks which I keep at my house. I also have a motorhome. I like to fish and hunt for geo-caches and I like to have my dog with me when I visit NM State Parks.

I go to Elephant Butte State Park 2-3 times a week year-round. I go to Caballo and Percha State parks 3 or 4 times a year. I spend 5-10 nights a year camping in various NM state parks (this year, I have reservations for Santa Rosa Lake and Bluewater Lake.) Last year, I spent a month camping in Arizona (several state parks). This year I have reservations for 3 weeks in Colorado State parks.

Overall, I fully support raising park fees. Below are some specific issues I hope you take into consideration.

1) Day use Fee

- a. AGREE Free (a.k.a “included in our tax dollars”) for NM residents is a great idea. Collection and processing of the fee is cumbersome.
- b. AGREE \$10 for non-residents seems fair. Get access to infrastructure, staffing and natural resources.
- c. CONCERN No annual pass. Problem for very frequent out of state users, especially people who are not NM residents but own vacation property near a park. Also for travelers who plan to be in NM for a month or more. Not so much the cost as the inconvenience of having to get that pass each day if they are not camping in a park.
- d. PROPOSE How about a \$250 +/- annual non-resident day use pass. The current pass being only 8 days worth of fees is too cheap! Annual pass should only be worth it for very frequent users.

2) Camping Fee

- a. AGREE that primitive/developed/beach camping should all be the same price. All use infrastructure, make garbage, require staff. Sleep in park = camping fee.
- b. QUESTION: Does camping fee for non-resident include day access? In TX and CO it does not. Fee should be \$10 per vehicle + \$20 per camping unit (RV, tent, van)
- c. AGREE that \$20 a night is fair.
- d. AGREE that utility adds \$10. Per utility right? \$10 for power, \$10 for sewer?
- e. AGREE that there should be no annual pass. Camping impact on the resources is the same whether you do it once or twice a year or every day. No discount.
- f. CONCERN Need enforcement on the 14 day stay and on unattended camping units. At Elephant Butte, there are several units in the park for months if not year-round and people leave their units on the beach unattended for days on end.
- g. PROPOSAL All camping should be by reservation only. Primitive/beach camping is just a camp with no designated site number. Same day reservations allowed.

3) Dump fee

- a. AGREE \$10 is fair
- b. CONCERN will the dumps need to be staffed? How collect the fee?

- 4) Boat Registration fee
 - a. AGREE should go up. Use the revenue to maintain channel markers and patrol the waters.
 - b. QUESTION: How enforce the 90 day rule for registering an out of state boat?
- 5) Ramp Fee
 - a. PROPOSAL New fee should be for any boat not registered in NM. If you have a kayak with the voluntary NM boat registration – no ramp fee. If you have speed boat with TX registration – you pay the ramp fee each day.
 - b. PROPOSAL Use the iron rangers, self-pay for ramp fee. “must have your receipt with you”
- 6) Fees for concessions that have no permanent improvement in the park
 - a. DISAGREE It appears that no fee increase is proposed.
 - b. Fishing or Tour Guides operating in a park make \$300-\$400/trip, maybe 2 trips a day, and only pay \$500 or \$300 a year. They are making private income using public resources. At least \$1,000 a year should be considered plus requirements for data reporting (number of customers, in state/out of state, etc) and penalties if customers on their vehicle fail to follow rules (fishing license, littering, etc)
 - c. Fees for retail (food, firewood, dump/water service) should be enforced and more than \$500 or \$300 a year.
 - d. Fees for rental services (porta-potties, air BnB RVs, boats and tubes) should be enforced and a lot more than \$500 or \$300 a year. Rented porta-potties and RV should pay \$20 camping fee for each night they are in the park. Also required to provide garbage control, share data about use and penalized for their equipment being involved in violations.
 - e. Event fees. What are they? For profit vs non-profit? Music, athletic events, balloons, learning. These should be encouraged (but pay a fee, protect the resources)
- 7) Fees for concessions that do have permanent improvement in the park
 - a. CONCERN I have not been able to determine what fees are applied to marinas, restaurants, lodging and entertainment businesses that operate in a park but I think they should be encouraged. They draw users and generate park revenue. They make an investment that is an asset to the parks. They should pay a fair fee for use of the public land but the process to get a concession permit should be clear and efficient. Encourage private entities to improvements to the parks that the state cannot afford (star gazing pads, floating water parks, food service, etc)

Not related to fees but, while I’m thinking about state parks, PLEASE

- 1) Designate day use only areas along water when camping is allowed on the water edge. Campers take up all of the waterfront and day trippers need a place to access for short term fun.
- 2) Use State Parks as a skills/career training opportunity. High School level internships (customer service, data/marketing, environmental and facilities management); Class based projects (facilities maintenance/construction, events, erosion control, habitat restoration, marketing, planning)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and to attend public meetings.

- Christine Logan
Elephant Butte NM

From: [christine logan](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for proposed changes to state park fees.
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024 9:04:15 AM

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I attended the public information meeting at Elephant Butte State Park. Thank you for a very well done presentation.

YES! YES! YES!

- Mandatory review and update of park fees every 5 years!
- Increase the camping fees to make them reasonable for the services and amenities provided. \$20 per night (including day access) seems good to me.
- Primitive camping uses the same resources as camping with a picnic table.
- Eliminate the annual camping pass. It is abused by too many.
- If camping site comes with utilities, camper should cover that cost. BUT there must be sites available that don't have any utility in the site for those who don't need it. Same with dumping, if camper uses it, they pay the cost.
- Non-residents should pay more for Day Use of NM parks than residents do.
- Boat registration fees should be higher. Create a registration for non-motorized boats at a reasonable fee. ANY boat not registered in NM should pay a daily launch fee to be on NMSP water.
- Make enough money to be able to enforce the rules you already have, maintain the infrastructure and amenities, and protect the natural resources!

NO!

- Do NOT eliminate the day use pass. The convenience of "I come here all the time, I've already checked in."
- Access should not be free. \$5 is not what is keeping people away now. If it costs nothing to go there and do your day drinking / making out / dumping your trash / etc some will.
 - Day Use \$5/vehicle for NM resident \$10/vehicle for non resident
 - Annual Day Use Pass (sticker instead of hanger) \$50 for NM resident \$150 for non resident

THINK SOME MORE?

- Change to a permanent sticker day use pass so that it cannot be passed around. (Like CO State Parks). Put it on when issued so it can't just be passed to a friend.
- Offer a 1 year boat registration option. Easier for some to afford and meet the needs of snowbirds or other travelers who would register their small craft instead of paying a daily ramp fee.

Thanks again!

Christine Logan