

From: [Clinton Laswell](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Mexico State Parks Division Proposes Changes to Fee Structure and Park Rules
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 3:44:23 PM

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Hello - thank you for allowing residents to provide input. Responding to each of your bullet points below:

- Elimination of day-use fees for New Mexico residents.
- Implementation of a non-resident day-use fee.
- Eliminating Annual Passes.
- Adjusting camping and utility fees.
- Adjusting boat registration and launching fees.
- Adjusting entrance fees at Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park and Smokey Bear Historical Park

Elimination of day us fees for NM residents + Implementation of non-resident day-use fee + Eliminating Annual Passes

These somewhat go together. Will there be a dedicated lane for NM residents only that they can drive right through without getting stopped? Reason: if everyone needs to stop at the pay station every time they enter the park to get checked and/or pay, this is going to cause congestion and a traffic jam (especially at Elephant Butte) - not good. If there's a dedicated lane like there is currently for annual day passes - no issue.

Adjusting camping and utility fees: no issue on this one, however, heard a rumor that campers will need to start paying an extra fee to use the RV/dump station. If this is true it's going to drive the wrong behavior and cause people to dump their crap on the beach or in the lake. If this is just rumor and they can use the RV dump station w/o paying an extra fee - no issue w/ this one.

Adjusting boat registration and launching fees: Increasing boat registration - no problem. However, I don't have to pay a "launching fee" today at Elephant Butte. Is that going to change? If so - that brings us back to the point of creating traffic congestion at the pay station every time someone wants to launch their boat. Please think about efficiency. It's better to increase the annual passes (even double the annual pass fee) and keep traffic flowing, instead of forcing everyone to stop at the pay station every time. Also - the amount of State Park personnel will need to increase to keep up w/ more people stopping at the entrance. Fewer people, more automation is the way to go.

Adjusting entrance fees at Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park and Smokey Bear Historical Park - no issue w/ this one

Thank you for your consideration,

CW Laswell