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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed 2024 New Mexico Fee Increase Respose
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:49:18 AM

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Proposed 2024 New Mexico Fee Increase Response

Resident Day Use Fees: they should remain in place at \$5.00

Non-residents Day Use Fees: they should be increased \$10.00

Primitive Camping: should be raised to \$10.00

Resident Developed Camping: should be \$15.00

Non-resident Developed Camping: should be no less than \$20.00 per day

Utilities: raising the charge from \$4 to \$10 is a 250% increase - \$10 for both water and electric is sufficient.

Dump Station Fees: \$10 is reasonable

Annual Camping Pass: We believe it should stay in place for the residents; we are willing to increase our cost for the pass, increased to \$200.00. To make it available to non-residents, we would like for it to be increased 2 ½ times the existing fee. New Mexico residents should definitely be paying less than out of state visitors. As an example, general hunting resident is \$15.00 and non-resident it \$65.00 - 450% increase, resident deer license is \$34.00 and non-resident is \$270.00 - a 799% increase. Bull elk resident tag is \$90.00 and non-resident is \$548.00 - 610% increase. Game and Fish charges non-residents significantly more than residents; New Mexico State Parks can do the same thing with camping fees, as all the other states used for your comparison already do. A Colorado resident fishing licenses cost \$41.83; a non-resident will pay \$117.14, almost three times (2.8) higher.

All the surrounding states that you compare New Mexico State Parks to, have a much higher annual income than New Mexico residents. State Park fees are 75% self-supporting; New Mexico tax payers pay the other 25%. As New Mexico retirees on the state retirement plan, we have only received a 0.5% cost of living in the last 5 years. We really need to keep this Annual Camping Pass in place so we can continue to enjoy the New Mexico State Parks. Most of New Mexico State Parks are located near small towns whose livelihood depends on tourism. Their income is in turn taxed by the state of New Mexico, didn't see that in your study. Your attempt to compare a New Mexico State campground to the private owned KOA is not relational at all. The KOA is the most expensive place you never want to park your RV; yes they offer many things if that is what a person wants, let them stay there. State parks offer natural beauty, adequate space between camp sites; this is what makes them attractive to campers. We definitely need the resident and senior resident camping pass to remain in place, this makes it possible for us to get out and enjoy the state parks of New Mexico. Your proposed fee increase will definitely send many of us out of the state for our camping goals.

Regarding the Class A vessel registration, the proposed fee of \$75.00 for 3 years for 16ft or less comes out to \$25.00 per year. A non-motorized vessel (ex: kayak) proposed daily launch fee of \$5.00 per day would cost me \$70.00 for a 14 day stay. A kayak registration fee of \$46.50 for 3 years, would be comparable to the 16ft vessel.

Sincerely,

Dan and Linda Williams