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Subject: [EXTERNAL] State Park Fees study
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2024 9:20:26 PM

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Hello,

I am a lifelong New Mexican. I was born and raised in Las Cruces New Mexico and still reside here today. My wife and I attended the public meeting held here at the Mesilla bosque state park. My wife and I are frequent visitors of Elephant Butte State park. I agree that there is a need to raise prices to help the state parks continue to offer a great experience for our citizens. I however do NOT agree with strong suggestions on over double for night camping.

We are current annual pass owners and would like for the committee to consider keeping an annual pass for overnight and day camping. This allows New Mexicans the ability to afford to stay at the state parks for multiples and keep their money here in the state instead of traveling to other states to spend their monies. The annual pass should rise to \$60 for day use for NM residents and to \$120 for non residents. The overnight camping should be raised to \$225 for NM residents and to \$500 for non residents in my opinion. Discounts should count accordingly for our seniors, vets and handicapped. It was mentioned that it is hard to keep track of residents vs. non residents. My suggestion is to install camera systems at entries and exits that detect users license plates and also a kiosk scanner for users to place their driver's license in so it can be read and identifies their statehood. The two technologies are widely available and are used in many states for toll road payment. Annual passes are a guaranteed payday for the state parks much like an amazon or Walmart plus subscription and should not be tossed aside as a potential loss in revenue. All annual passes are for primitive camping and day use only!

Day use for residents should be raised to \$8 per vehicle and \$12 per vehicle for non residents. Kiosks can be installed to accept credit card payments and also a drivers license should be presented to the Kiosks to identify residents vs. non residents. Overnight primitive camping should be raised to \$15 dollars per night per vehicle for NM residents and \$22 a night for non residents. Dump stations should remain free if a fee is imposed you will find more illegal dumping destroying our state parks. More dump stations should be added to Elephant butte state park. Developed sites should be the \$20 per night and \$20 per night for spots with electric, water and if available a waste water dump for residents. Non residents should pay \$22 per night and \$15 per night for developed sites. No discounts should be offered for annual camping passes to avoid abuse of reservations for developed camping sites.

Boat registration fees should increase for residents to a flat \$100 per vessel for a 3 year period. The flat registration fee will eliminate the need to keep track of the length of the vessel. This will align us more with our neighboring states. There should be a charge for out of state vessels to be placed on our New Mexico lakes. A \$50 fee per year should be applied to non residents again a video identification and or drivers license scan kiosk can be used to identify a resident vs. a non resident.

Databases can be created and cross references for identifying violators and bans can be put in place for these abusers. These databases can also be used to keep track of vessel expirations to keep violators off of our lakes.

The video systems can also be used to identify abusers of the annual passes as they enter or depart our state parks to maintain the 14 day consecutive days in a state park. Databases can be cross referenced for all of NM state parks to verify entry and exits of violators/abusers. With the users drivers license and license plates fines can be sent to the violators and create another form of revenue.

If the current suggested rates are applied it will "price out many of our residents who depend on these parks for their vacations". As a child growing up here this is what my parents could afford to do with us and it was our vacation. I had not been to California or Florida until I could pay for that myself. The free day use would be a good addition for certain parks that are hiking trails, museum type attractions but for our true outdoors families they want to camp and give their families that experience.

Paddle boards should not incur a charge for use on an NM state park lake. Canoe and kayak should have a flat \$10 per year or \$30 for 3 years for their "registration" should be imposed.

The study compared adjoining states to ours, however did not take into account the median incomes for family households. NM - \$58.7K, Texas - \$73K, Arizona - \$72.5K, Colorado - \$87.5K, Utah - \$86.8K, Nevada - \$71.6K. As you can see NM is over \$14K a year difference to the states that were included in the survey. Please make sure to consider this when the final decision is made to increase fees.

Thank you for the presentation and please take my comments into consideration to help increase revenue for state parks and keep our residents going to state parks at an appropriate price for our socio economic status.

Thank you,

Eugene Hanway