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To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fee study
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With respect to the state parks employees' recommendations for fee changes:

1. I support elimination of the annual camping pass. This will hopefully reduce abuse by certain individuals who park their rigs unattended to save spaces throughout the summer.
2. I disagree with elimination of day use fees for nm residents. This runs counter to the stated idea that the parks are to be operated as an enterprise fund (one initial reason given for pursuing the study) and places state parks squarely in the "common good" column - an idea I strongly disagree with. Even doubling entrance fees for nm residents, especially on a per vehicle basis, is unlikely to prevent utilization of state parks by residents. Further, once parks become an entitlement, I anticipate problems with overcrowding, especially at certain parks - bottomless' lea lake comes to mind - as they already experience maximum visitors on certain summer days.

Overall, I believe the study was presented with too little information, and those employees who crafted this document appear to have suffered a similar lack of direction. Nowhere was a target increase in annual revenue mentioned, and therefore choosing the correct path forward seems impossible. Similarly, how/why do social concerns enter into the equation? This was presented as a fee study, but honestly the comparator information could have been gathered with less than 30 minutes effort by anyone with an internet connection, and there is very little else that the "study" presents. What about implementation costs? No information is presented as to how many additional personnel will be necessary to realize the increase in revenue, and therefore none of the respondents, and possibly none of the study participants, have any idea if the revenue increase is achievable without a similar increase in costs. Elephant Butte rangers cannot/do not currently check camper information daily (I have witnessed campers in the same spot for 3 months continuously-as late as December '23) and therefore I cannot comprehend how they intend to enforce the new rules. If enforcement does not occur, then neither will revenue increases.

I am concerned that the proposed fee structure changes will fundamentally alter my experience at NM State Parks. I do not oppose fee increases, but it would appear much easier to simply double all current fees than make the changes proposed - both for the employees and the park user.

Thanks,

Harry Burgess