

**From:** [Jackie Burgess](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed State Park Fees  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 7:27:02 PM

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Dear State Park Committee,

I am concerned about Bottemless Lakes State Park. The park is often overrun in the summer months. Not charging a fee for New Mexicans may cause a sense of entitlement. There is always a large amount of trash left by visitors, daily upkeep of the facilities (restrooms picnic areas, etc.), as well as lifeguards and concessions that are required for operation. I have spent lots of time camping there and enjoy it very much. I just don't think this particular park (Bottomless Lake) should be free. The impact of free access could have a negative effect-especially for park employees.

I am also interested in the new fee proposals. I read the Fee Study and was struck by how the study suggested simplifying fees but then goes on to make them much more complex. For example, the sewage dump fee of \$10. How is this going to be regulated? I use the dump at Elephant Butte and it can be tight to get in and out with all the people waiting to use it. If the sites are gated or otherwise restricted, I believe it will seriously impact visitors. I think this will cause illegal dumping. The only way to avoid this is to charge this fee straight away at entry regardless if the camper plans to use it or not. I don't think the logistics of charging some of these fees has been thought out.

Another head scratcher is the fee for kayaking, paddle boards, and rafts. I live in Elephant Butte and go to irregular places to launch my kayak. I think most people do not use the docks. Kids like to play near camping spots on non-motorized boats and floats. These fees seem confusing.

I know everyone needs access to emergency services because things happen. I agree that fees need to increase for all things park related. The proposed fee list is going to cause more time and confrontation. I could go on in great detail but I have already written too much.

Double all current fees and be done. Keep it simple.

Thank you,  
Jackie Burgess  
Elephant Butte, NM

Sent from my iPad