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To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Dow](#); [Crystal Diamond](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Changes Suggestions
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 7:18:41 PM

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Dear NM State Parks Division,

I attended the informational meeting in Elephant Butte. I am a permanent resident of Sierra County and live in Hotsprings Landing. I can see the park from my back yard. I have an annual camping pass and use it at the Elephant Butte Lake and throughout NM Parks. It allows me an affordable opportunity to enjoy our State Parks which I pay taxes for.

I understand from the meeting that the Department is requesting to raise fees, charge fees for non-motorized watercraft and eliminate annual passes.

I am opposed to the elimination of annual camping and annual day use passes. If you eliminate these passes and implement the proposed exorbitant nightly camping fee you will price out NM residents who are already suffering from a poor economy. Sierra County will lose vital tourist dollars. We are still playing catch-up from the Governor shutting down our state parks during Covid.

I suggest:

Raise the price for annual camping and annual day passes. Do not eliminate them. This will also reduce the number of homeless living at the parks.

Charge \$10.00 entrance fee into the park but not to annual pass holders.

Do not charge a fee for non-motorized craft. You can't police it and discourages children from using the park.

Increase the fee for electric sites.

Charge a fee for the dumping stations but not to annual pass holders.

Implement fee increases yearly and not all at once. If you increase the fees as proposed you are penalizing NM residents for NM Governors failures. We can't afford it and State Parks will lose money. It's not our fault that NM forfeited more than \$5 million in federal funding for outdoor recreation projects over the last three years because employees at NM State's Parks Division missed deadlines to distribute the money to projects around the state. (*State loses millions in federal dollars meant for outdoor recreation projects, Elizabeth Miller, January 1, 2024*)

I hope to attend the April 1st Hearing and testify.

Sincerely,
Julianne Stroup
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