

From: [Lee Reynolds](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Mexico State Parks Fees Study rule changes - Elephant Butte
Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 10:59:44 AM

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Hello,

I missed the opportunity to voice my opposition to the proposed fee changes you are considering. These changes are so hard/complex when a simple fee increase would be simple and still affordable to all New Mexicians and our out-of-state visitors.

If your goal was to increase the funds for the department to better protect and provide for safe boating and camping for all. I understand the need for funding and the existing fee structure is a bit old and needs to be refreshed while still maintaining a rate that New Mexicans can afford; since the NM has one of the highest poverty stats in the nation and the proposed changes would impact the poorer New Mexicians the most.

Moreover, the proposed plan would prevent and discourage a lot of visitors that help fund the economic infrastructure of the local communities and the reduction in tax revenue for NM. As you already know that Sierra County is one of the poorest areas of NM and this plan would further that statistic and drop the States park revenue from the States largest and best operated park.

I believe there is a better solution and I hope we will have a chance to discuss them further in the coming months. Please reconsider this proposal as it would require more NM State Park staff for enforcement and advance the distrust in NM politics.

Thank you for your time.