From: <u>Lydia M</u>

To: emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed fee changes

Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024 4:48:32 PM

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I would like to submit the following as response to the proposed fee changes.

1. non motorized launch fee -

To keep SUP rates comparable to licensed boats, here are some proposals.

- 1. Offer an option to license non motorized boats. Either with a sticker on the boat, something similar to a fishing license, or as a sticker on a day use pass. The rate could be similar to to the class A boats.
- 2. Make the \$5 launch fee good for 7 or 14 days. (Then it is \$10 or \$20 a month for daily paddlers)
- 3. Offer an annual rate (or 3 year rate similar to boats) for NM residents of approx \$25 a year, but keep the \$5 rate for out of state.

2. camping fee -

The elimination of the annual camping pass is a huge hit for everyone.

I'd like you to consider leaving the dispersed campsite fee at Elephant Butte (only this state park) at \$8 and not more than \$10. (With reduced rates for seniors etc.)

At the meeting they mentioned that different parks may have different fees... for instance, in Albuquerque, there will be a parking fee.

The city of Truth or Consequences relies on tourism dollars, that will drop with the elimination of the annual camping pass. Currently, Elephant Butte brings in close to sustaining income. Keeping camping fees low at elephant butte will help to keep people camping at elephant butte. The proposed camping cost is prohibitive for the type of camping that is offered at Elephant Butte.

I actually think they are wrong that they lose money on the Annual Pass. One would have to camp 7 nights for seniors (\$100AP) and 13 nights (\$180AP) for under 60 to make it break even. Most folks don't camp that much.

3. Free day use - it did not seem that many people are in favor of free day use. (Most people there were ok with the day use annual pass)

Personally, I have no problem paying \$40 annual fee for day use pass but I would like to see families etc have free access.

Here are some ideas

- 1. Make the \$5 day pass good for 7 or 14 days. This is similar to some national parks.
- 2. Offer free admittance to anyone with children under 14 in the vehicle.
- 3 Allow seniors, veterans, foster families to apply for a free or reduced pass. Also allow anyone to apply for a hardship pass. (If they take the time to apply and state a reason, then they can get a free pass.)

If they do not have a pass, then they pay the \$5 rate.. I also feel that the day pass should be based on per vehicle not per person.

Your consideration of these thoughts is appreciated.

Lydia Mabry Las Cruces NM