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To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Park Fee Structure
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 1:07:53 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I hope it is not too late to offer comments on your new fees proposal.

I just spent the last 4 months in New Mexico, rather than going on to Arizona as I had planned, because of the amazing annual park pass and fee structure that I found within your State Park system. As a senior citizen with limited income, I had planned to go on to the LTVA's of Arizona after passing through New Mexico. However, hearing of your ACP and the discounts it afforded me, I changed plans and stayed in New Mexico.

And then spent every dollar of my budget on fuel, food, propane, clothing, equipment and gifts in the communities that surround your southern parks. Not surprisingly, I met many others who were doing the same thing and had done so for many years.

If you change your fees as indicated in the proposal, I believe your winter parks will be empty, save for individuals who are financially very well off. So well off, in fact, as to be easily able to afford private RV parks, which means that the State Park system becomes a competitor with tax paying private businesses in your state. It also means that the money spent in the communities that surround your parks will feel the loss of revenue generated by all the winter visitors who now use the parks during the off-season.

Without a doubt, your ACP and current fee program deserves a little tweaking. It is almost unbelievably great for the budgeting winter visitor. However, a single jump from \$4 per night (plus reservation fee) to \$40 per night *will empty your parks in the winter*. I would like to suggest that you encourage winter trade with more welcoming off-season rates. You have the opportunity to seriously compete with Arizona's LTVAs for the budgeting senior travelers who have come and will continue to come south for the winter months.

I do not know how these proposed changes will affect your high season. I suppose people will pay what they must to enjoy your lakes and parks. However, I think you do your middle to lower class residents (in a state that has such high poverty rates) a disservice in making their public spaces so much more expensive than they have ever been.

Good luck with your deliberations. I would love to come back next winter, but absolutely cannot with these proposed rates a reality. I am so glad to have seen so much of your beautiful state this last winter season.

Thank you,
Paula Efta

P.S. One more thing: I used the reservation system as required and because of how busy Bottomless Lakes was at the time, I was forced to move from one site to another during the week I was there, and had to make 3 separate reservations for the different sites. I had to pay

separate reservation fees for each reservation, in spite of their being continuous in one visit. In fact, I paid more in reservation fees (\$24) than I did for the site rentals (\$20). This situation is not good and should be addressed, I think.