From: PAULA MORRIS

To: emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed changes input

Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024 4:29:43 PM

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- 1. No need to eliminate day use fees for NM residents. No one (us, kids, grandkids, friends) who uses the areas minds paying the very reasonable rate. Maybe just do not raise them for residents, but put slightly higher fee for non-residents. Question to consider though: how would you ensure that those nonresidents complied? Rangers collecting instead of boxes is too labor intensive. If you eliminate the fees for locals, you still have those areas to clean, trash to collect, bathrooms to maintain, etc. with no revenue coming in. Not practical at all. Elimination of daily fees may encourage homeless tent groups.
- 2. Elimination of annual camping passes is not a good idea. Currently, it gets you \$10 off per night. If you raise the camping fees -which is more than reasonable after years of not e.g. to \$18-\$19 per night, it would mean with a pass, I am paying \$8 per night instead of \$4, twice the current revenue. Raise the annual pass fee somewhat if needed. Elimination will severely impact many senior citizens ability to camp.
- 3. There are several parks that could be expanded by the addition of several more sites (Caballo river sites, especially, is hard to book into yet has a huge open area with not one RV site on it!) or combine some tiny tent sites that are rarely used into larger RV sites so more people could book campers in. Heron Lake has numerous of those tiny sites, especially in Willow Creek. Fenton Lake sites are too small for many RVs. Same at City of Rocks. Lengthen sites so more folks can utilize. Out of state friends have mentioned several times that their Airstream camp club members would love to come here, but not enough larger spaces at some of our parks.
- 4. Most of the parks need bigger budgets, more staff in order to maintain them properly. Maybe offer camp hosts some basic training in maintenance and a small stipend for handling that as well as the free camp sites.

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