From: Regina Strong

To: <u>emnrd-parkscomments</u>, <u>EMNRD</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Park use fees increase/decrease Date: Thursday, March 7, 2024 2:25:41 PM

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My experience has been great with the use of New Mexico State Parks. I am a retired person on a fixed income and look forward to reaching the age for purchasing the Senior Resident Annual Camping Permit next year. Based on the income report the ACP generates over \$1M in state revenue for State Parks and I think it would be foolish to abandon that source of income to the State.

The day use fees are reasonable and should be kept at that rate. Just because you are a state resident doesn't mean parks should be free to use.

Boat launch fees should be included as part of the day use fee and collected by the "iron ranger" at the self pay station. Do not eliminate day use fees to residents....we pay our taxes but State Parks rely on State Park generated revenues as well.

Primitive camping should stay in the \$8 to \$10 range because we all know the State Parks put very little effort into "primitive" camp spots and access to those spots.

Particularly Elephant Butte state park has an enormous revenue potential but is being completely under utilized for it's draw to NM residents. The full hook up and utility provided facilities are mostly used by out-of-state non-residents in chunks of 14 day stays....increase non-resident fees and BUILD MORE facilities like the South Montecello camp ground. Build and maintain better roads to access the lake and lakeside camp sites.

Just my opinion,

NM Resident waiting for ACP at an affordable price