

From: [Russ Trager](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Out of State Customers.... El Paso
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:12:22 PM

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I am submitting my thoughts re changing fees our El Paso customers.

No other out of state city lays so close to the New Mexico state border as does El Paso.

People from El Paso treat Elephant Butte as "their lake" due to the fact they have no other to recreate upon. Thus, they buy 2nd homes in Elephant Butte Lake area. They buy boats in New Mexico. They buy their accessories, gasoline and motor services in New Mexico. They store their boats on slips in marinas in Elephant Butte Lake. Or they pay to have their boats on trailers stored in our storage yards. They buy food at our grocery stores and eat at our restaurants. In short, saying New Mexico licence plates enter for free, but Texas plates must pay more is not just hitting them up for more money, it is insulting. Many will register a vehicle in New Mexico to get around your new fees. But, they won't do so without comment.

I say if State Parks needs more money, charge everyone an extra \$5 to enter. AND, charge more for the Annual Pass... people will pay \$50, \$60 or even \$75 for the Annual Pass.

Your plan to let NM residents in for free and have your entry booths view their license plate or driver's license is going to slow things down to a crawl. Lines to get in "for free" will be haciendas. Emotions are going to flare. This won't be good.

Do not do this!

Russ Trager
Zia Kayak Outfitters

From: [Russ Trager](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] kayak fees
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:36:02 PM

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Let's think about kayakers for the moment. It is agreed that pedal drive kayaks and kayaks newly designed to have an electric drive built in to the kayak in such a way, your people will not know the kayak is motorized. So, State Parks sees kayakers as a revenue source. But, here is who they are: these are the people who clean up the lake. They pick up trash at the shore and from the water. They use their kayaks often.... some on a daily basis. The cheap kayaks will be toys for their kids. The \$3000 to \$6000 kayaks (that Zia Kayak Outfitters sells) are rigged like bass boats. Owners go to multiple lakes to fish tournaments. These kayaks do not hold water or have bait wells. Fish caught are photographed on a measuring board and released. In tournaments, the angler's best 5 fish's combined length equals their score. No kayaker costs the State Parks more money. They will ask for kayak launch areas when lake levels get low and making them walk in mud or the slope from ground to water is so steep, they can't get in or out of the water.

Many houseboats have kayaks aboard. They will remain in the State Park daily. Marinas rent kayaks and have a sizable inventory. They will remain in the State Park daily.

Because kayakers are the people who want to make a difference and volunteer to help, like at Friends of the Lake, AND they love getting their annual pass for helping, Friends of the Lake NEEDS these people. By doing away with Annual Passes, you are doing away with an incentive for kayakers to join. Of course in your mind, you are thinking they will have free access to the State Parks if they are New Mexican residents.... but you are going to kill their attendance by having kayak launch fees. Wise folk will register their kayaks so get around the launch fees despite you wanting to charge more for registering.

You should have a sticker system created for kayaks registration that is cheaper than the motorized water craft.

Russ Trager
Zia Kayak Outfitters

From: [Russ Trager](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] kayak registration
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 3:40:24 PM

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Kayaks that are registered will have free launch fees. But, some of the brand new kayaks that are similar to Stand Up Paddleboards and have no place on their hulls to put on hull numbers, will need you to allow the registration of their trailer with New Mexico plates be their entry ticket.

Russ Trager
Zia Kayak Outfitters