

From: [Stacy Andersen](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] State Parks fee structure
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 8:44:50 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am submitting comments based on what I know of the proposed changes.

First, I think getting rid of the annual pass is a mistake. You can raise the fee - that would be fine, but as a 40-year visitor at Elephant Butte (and T or C homeowner), I can tell you that the annual pass is a HUGE benefit when it comes to avoiding lines. There are never enough booths open and at times the lines to get in the park are ridiculous. Even as a resident whose fees would possibly be eliminated, how can we get in the park quickly and efficiently? Make us pay more for the annual - that would be fine - but don't eliminate it. I don't really even see a reason to eliminate in-state visitor fees. It isn't really a problem.

At Elephant Butte, we also have many, many El Paso visitors (my family included). They would be forced to pay, not being residents, but they would also have to wait in line to do so. Why not have an annual pass that just costs a little more for them? Unless you plan to hire more entrance booth workers, I can see this being a real nightmare trying to get in the park.

I also realize that part of the issue is people essentially "living" in the parks, or leaving their campers on the beach for a week to get a good spot for a holiday weekend. Surely there is another solution to that? Increased ranger patrols? Higher fines or removal fees? Boot their tires?

I understand the need for fee increases, but do that in a reasonable way and move on. We need to make using our parks easy and fun while generating enough revenue to have them well-maintained and safe. Give us a way to help with that - something that makes sense!

Thank you,
Stacy Andersen
Albuquerque, Truth or Consequences