

**From:** [Susan Montgomery](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The change to the fees at the State Parks  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 26, 2024 9:46:57 PM

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Hi there, God bless you for doing this. I don't envy your job.

I'd like to give you my thoughts about the changes as a parent and grandmother. We live in Truth or Consequences and use Elephant Butte Park often. It is the park where we have family reunions every year. Our family and friends come from three states to meet us there. We love our lake and park.

The families of TorC vacation at Elephant Butte. Many of them are underprivileged and the lake offers an inexpensive vacation for them. It is the highlight of their lives to go camp, fish, and play at the lake. They get to sleep under the stars and roast marshmallows. They can fly kites without a power line to catch it. They can play in the lake to their hearts content. What is that worth to a child - indescribable! They will remember it all their lives and they will teach their families to camp as well. We have to keep this available for them at a reasonable cost.

These families do not go out to the lake for the day as a general rule. They are working several jobs to get by. Saying that they can go during the day for free is not helpful. The charge of \$20 per night for camping would be exorbitant for these families who are already stretched way past the max just to live. This would be a deterrent to keep them from camping at all.

This is my suggestion for the fee changes at the parks:

Do away with passes. Good idea.

Keep the \$5 for day use. You may not be able to catch everyone who doesn't pay but there are lots of honest folks who will pay it and every penny helps.

Charge \$10 per night for camping. Do it for the children if nothing else. Help the families who would not be able to camp if it was doubled.

I personally think it's a crime that the state of NM does not support our parks with financial support. They can spend \$90,000,000 on a worthless highway project and even more to replace a perfectly good bridge but they can't support our state parks? That's criminal.

Please think of the kids that need access to our parks more than anyone else.  
Thank you for your consideration.

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