

From: myvoice@oneclickpolitics.com
To: emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fix the Department before changing rates
Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 1:22:12 PM

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Re: Fix the Department before changing rates

Dear Public Comment,

For many years now the NM State Parks department has been a disaster. Ridiculous decisions like wearing a mask while on your boat on a lake, closing a park because an employee got Covid stating the park needed to be sanitized and the pay scale is so antiquated that no one wants the job. Now money was spent on an analysis of fees rather than addressing the real issues of facility maintenance and employee pay to attract quality people. NM has a surplus of funds. Please use those funds to fix our broken NM State Parks department and then consider changing rate. As a recent example: I was at Brantley Lake 10 days ago. The ramp to the dock had a pile of rocks on it (who knows why) and instead of cleaning them off, the ramp entrance was 'blocked' with a cable and caution tape. Men were stepping over and children were going under. Being short and handicapped I struggled to go under. Why not just clear the rocks? The men's bathroom was too disgusting to use according to my husband. I have an annual pass, but, according to another visitor the daily fee box was too packed to put anymore in. My husband did talk to the manager who is out on extended leave. There was supposed to be a person covering for him that obviously wasn't. Annual passes were delayed because employees did not order supplies to produce them. One more example. Before changing rates thus putting the change on the users, change the department administration, hire employees at a comparable pay-scale and ensure the parks are being cared for in a way conducive to being a state treasure.

Sincerely,
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