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To: [emnrd-parkscomments](#), [EMNRD](#)
Cc: [Maureen Keleher Kelly](#); [Maureen and Tom Kelly](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NM State Park fee structure study
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 11:34:14 AM

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Hello

Thank you for all your good work at our NM State Parks. I have been a NM resident since 1961 and very much appreciate having access to our beautiful NM State Parks. Generally, I'm okay with increasing fees to keep up with inflation and to maintain and improve facilities. I'm also okay with charging non residents a little more. Please consider a reduced fee for NM residents, people with disabilities and veterans.

As a NM resident and property owner in Elephant Butte I have been a day use annual permit holder for several decades. I am happy to pay to use the park as I know my fees are used to pay Park Rangers and staff and maintain the parks. Please continue to charge for day use for residents and non residents, and please continue to allow the purchase of the NM resident annual day pass. I believe people should pay to enter or they will start to take it for granted and abuse it.

Annual Camping Passes: Yes eliminate them. Annual camping passes are abused at Elephant butte. It is impossible for us Elephant Butte residents to get a beach with a day use pass. People park all along the beach for a month at a time and then just move down the beach to another spot for another month. There is no beach access all summer. Your idea to eliminate annual camping passes would help us NM residents have day use access to our state parks. I support increasing camping fees, but please give NM residents, veterans and the disabled a lower fee.

I dislike the idea of charging a launch fee. I, like many people, launch sailboards, Paddle boards, sailboats, jet skis, and boats off the beach at Elephant Butte, so charging a launch fee seems like a logistical and administrative nightmare for the Rangers. It also feels like a junk fee like the airlines charge for baggage. Launching should be part of the entrance fee.

Dump fees: this may have horrible environmental consequences. Get the non working dump stations working and keep the rest operational. Late in the summer the lake water sometimes tests high in fecal matter. Please don't exacerbate the environmental problem with this junk fee.

Keep the ATV's out of our State Parks. There is a lot of Public land in NM the off roaders can access. There is enough chaos for the Rangers and Coast Guard to manage without adding another variable.

Get the fresh water working at all NM State Parks.

Please put the Hot Springs launch area back at Elephant Butte. It is on the beach and consists of two signs that say, "No Parking between these signs". It can't be that hard to move the signs as the water level fluctuates. Not having that ramp causes bigger lines at the concrete ramps.

Create a minimum pool on the NM State Park lakes. The local economy depends on the concrete ramps being open.

Again thanks so much for the great work you do for our state at EMNRD.

Cordially,
Tom Kelly

Sent from my iPhone