

From: [Travis Atwell](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Park fee study
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 8:08:57 AM

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I am opposed to your fee increase for the following reasons:

Primitive camping is not the same as developed camping. The parks department has not groomed the beaches in decades nor is there trash containers near by or picnic tables so those camping locations must remain separate with different fees. I can see increasing primitive camping to \$10/night.

Seasonal passes should remain for residents of NM as your proposed \$20/night is just absurd and this will cause visitor to not stay at the state parks.

Vessel launch fee is not feasible or enforceable especially at Elephant Butte as the state can't even keep employees. Does this mean you're also charging for rafts and floatation devices? Next you'll want to charge people for swimming in the water.

Boat registration fee increase is almost triple the current rate which is complete price gouging. The state isn't even able to maintain safe water levels in Elephant Butte Lake nor properly mark water hazards. There should be zero increase in boat registration fees.

Adding a dump station fee when there is only 1 dump station at the main entrance of Elephant Butte is ridiculous. This will cause visitors to dump as they leave the lake which has happened in the past when you closed down the second dump station.

At most a 15% adjustment in fees could be negotiated but your current proposal is price gouging and we all know you're not going to step up your maintenance at the lake as it has been decades since you stopped even grooming the beaches.

thanks,
Travis Atwell