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To: emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD
Cc: HELI.BOY@HOTMAIL.COM
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on proposed changes
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 8:01:11 AM

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Sir/Ma'am,

Here are my comments on the proposed changes. I understand the need to raise prices, but I believe doubling the prices for daily camping fees especially the primitive sites to match the developed sites without electricity to \$20 would put camping out of reach for most low-income New Mexico residents and doesn't make sense to me for a developed and primitive site to cost the same price. I also expected to buy my first annual pass this year as I became a 100% disabled veteran recently. Now that you are likely to remove the annual pass, this change will have a major impact to my retirement camping in NM plans. I planned to retire here in New Mexico and buy an annual pass every year, but if removed, I will no longer be supporting the state parks here other than using my 3 free days. I spend more than half of my off time camping in the state parks. I will go use the free BLM and National Forest land instead if the annual passes are removed and the camping fees go up to \$20. The parks aren't worth \$20 a day for camping for my needs. I rarely need electrical hookups since I drive an EV. Can you keep the annual passes for disabled NM vets and for residents over 65 and just remove the annual passes for out of state? I did research into camping in Oklahoma, and they have a 50% reduced fee for 100% disabled nonresident veterans. If the annual passes are in fact removed, could you change the fee structure to all vets that are 100% to get a 50% reduction in camping fees and just require us to show our documentation as Oklahoma has and requires? I would guess that the number of vets such as myself using the NM state camping is likely very low and wouldn't have a major impact on the total revenue.

The other proposed changes are the daily use fee. What about reducing the daily fee for NM to \$2 so there is still some income and a difference for those of us that live here and pay state income taxes and then changing the out of state for a \$7 fee. I don't have an RV, but I think adding a \$10 disposal fee will cause some folks to illegally dump or not pay the fee at all and still dump. I think the primitive sites should still be \$10 and perhaps the developed site without electricity should be no more than \$15. I read that the thoughts were that if we raise prices, will have more total income. I don't believe that will be the result here in NM being such a poor state for income overall. I believe that there will be much less use if the prices are changed to the proposals and in the end the state park system will still have around the same total revenue. Of course, there is no way to know, so these are just my opinions. If you make all your decisions of factual data, then I believe the decisions made will be in the best interest of all. I am really hoping that as a 100% disabled vet I can still buy an annual pass or get a 50% reduction like Oklahoma provides for all vets regardless of residency. Thanks for your time.

Very Respectfully,
Mr. William O. Holloway, Jr.
Cannon, AFB NM

