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To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed State Park Fee changes
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February 27, 2024

Yes, State Parks need to balance their budgets, but consideration needs to be given to the fact that most visitors (especially families) have limited funds to spend on recreation. In recent years, NM State Parks have been a better value than parks in many surrounding states, which can be a deciding factor for out-of-state visitors. Out-of-state visitors provide substantial tourism funding for our local economy, so the longer out-of-state visitors can stay and return to a NM State Park (annual pass vs day pass only), the more benefit to our local economy, i.e. visitors buy gasoline, groceries, souvenirs, supplies, eat at restaurants, etc. Many of our local businesses and economies depend on tourism, and visitors to State Parks are a substantial part of that tourism.

I ask that the proposed fee changes be re-evaluated considering the local economic impact State Park fees will have on local NM businesses that serve the NM State Park visitors. My major concerns are:

- The cost of Day Use Fees and the proposal to eliminate Annual Day Use Passes because I think those fees have a major impact when many out-of-state visitors are deciding where to go.
- Eliminating Day Use Fees for NM Residents is a nice gesture, but it won't offset the adverse economic impact caused by business lost from State Park visitors who choose to go to other states that offer better prices and/or service.

Fees need to be increased, but will potential visitors accept a 25-year cost-of-living increase in one lump sum?

Currently the Annual Day Use Pass per vehicle is \$40 for both residents and non-residents. I suggest consideration be given to increasing the Annual Day Use Pass per vehicle to \$80 for residents, and \$125 for nonresidents.

There are lots of aspects to consider. Thank you for considering my input.

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