

From: [Andrew Wilder](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Mexico State Parks Fees Study Public Comments
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 3:24:59 PM

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Hello,

My name is Andrew Wilder. I am a lifelong resident of New Mexico and user of our State Parks. I am writing to register my support of the proposed fee changes. Our State Parks and State Parks employees are a tremendous resource and they deserve to be funded adequately for the level of visitation and use the Parks receive.

My only concern is to do with equity. Setting aside the elimination of day use fees for residents, increasing the cost of other State Park fees may introduce a barrier preventing economically disadvantaged communities from participating fully in outdoor recreation. I'd like to see the State Parks incorporate a plan to address this issue, such as the ability to apply for a "Camping Card" for folks with an annual income below a certain percentage of the federal poverty line that would entitle the bearer to discounted State Park fees.

On a separate note, I'd like to commend the State Parks for the exemplary job they have done since taking over the Pecos Canyon. I look forward to future improvements such as hiking trails, although I request consideration be given to fly anglers' use of the river and the trail not follow the river too closely in order to preserve the experience of solitude many anglers seek.

I would be happy to answer any follow up questions or participate in any focus groups or additional discussions about this matter.

Thank you,
Andrew Wilder