

March 11, 2024

New Mexico State Parks
C/O Fees Study Public Comments
1220 S St Francis Dr., STE. 215
Santa Fe, NM 87505

NM State Parks,

I am writing you in regards to the recent fee proposals that have been published. I am a non-resident user of several NM state parks. We primarily visit Ute Lake, Conchas Lake and Oasis.

I ask that you please continue to offer Annual day use passes. I am supportive of a logical price increase on Annual Day Use passes as the need for additional revenue is understood. As a non-resident who frequents NM State Parks and is on the water at Ute Lake 40+ days annually it will cost us \$400+ to continue using the park. There is a very large number of non-residents with situations similar to this, including a significant number of retirees who are fixed income but choose to enjoy their days at NM State Parks. Many of them spend 4 to 5 days a week on the water for a few hours in the morning fishing, the increased cost to them by having to purchase day passes will be out outrageous.

I personally work in New Mexico and my wife owns a business in New Mexico, we want to see the State Parks survive and thrive. As mentioned in the presentation tourism is a huge revenue generator for the state. These proposals are blatantly placing the cost of funding the parks on out of state users. I fear the economic impact to communities surrounding state parks will be substantial if tourism slows due to drastic increased cost to visit the parks. Please consider a cost structure that places a portion of the revenue generated back on in-state users. Possibly a structure where residents get a 25% discount on the standard rates.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to reconsider the Annual Day Use passes. My self as well as thousands of other non-residents want to continue to visit beautiful NM State Parks without having to take on unnecessary financial burden.

Thanks,



Blane Tolleson