

From: [Brad Jeffrey](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] State Parks fees / RGNC
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2024 1:44:51 PM

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Hello,

I am writing in response to making State Park fees more equitable / areas more accessible. I am an educator with Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions, an outdoor education nonprofit In Albuquerque. I take student groups to State Parks around NM, and they are kept in incredible shape. We receive supplementary funding for such activities from the State through the Outdoor Equity Fund, and are glad to help fulfill the State's mission to get more kids outdoors.

In Albuquerque, I would encourage the State to make RGNC a free experience. Sites that are free in ABQ include all ABQ and BernCo open spaces in the Sandia foothills, Bosque, and elsewhere, as well as Valle de Oro NWR and Petroglyph NM. At RGNC, our vans are charged \$15/vehicle. These parking fees, though lower for smaller vehicles, are a barrier to achieving equitable access to the outdoors, including to the RGNC, the ABQ Open Space just west of RGNC, and to the outdoors in general.

I would suggest replacing parking fees with State funding and non-resident fees.

Thanks,
Brad

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