

From: myvoice@oneclickpolitics.com
To: [emnrd-parkscomments](#), [EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fairness and equality not present in NM State Parks proposal
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 3:50:05 PM

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Re: Fairness and equality not present in NM State Parks proposal

Dear Public Comment,

It is concerning that despite ample funds, the state is choosing to shift financial burdens onto its citizens through fee increases and eliminating the annual camping pass. New Mexicans are economically challenged, and raising fees to be consistent with neighboring states fails to consider these economic differences. The increased fees and new fees will make activities like camping, boating, and paddle sports unaffordable for many New Mexicans, especially considering recent inflation. It is especially burdensome for low and middle-income families and senior citizens on fixed incomes. During the legislative session, the proposed fee changes were not disclosed during the department's budget hearings. Attempting to get around the legislative process is a very deceptive practice and the people of New Mexico deserve better from their state agencies. Healthy debate and constructive input were eliminated since the Department knows the public will have limited ability to attend their "public hearings." The decision to raise fees contradicts the principles of fairness and equity and is an attack on social justice, especially considering the state's healthy financial position. It raises questions about the state's priorities and whether it is truly acting in the best interests of its citizens by choosing to burden them with unnecessary financial obligations. I respectfully request that you do not approve the proposed rule changes, go back and include the people you will affect instead of relying on a biased study to affirm your desired outcome.

Sincerely,

Mr. Byron Zahm

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