From:	dannysander@sbcglobal.net
To:	emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Proposal for Inclusive Fee Structure in New Mexico State Parks
Date:	Thursday, February 22, 2024 9:57:34 AM

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Subject: Proposal for Inclusive Fee Structure in New Mexico State Parks

To whom this may concern,

I trust this message finds you well. My name is Danny Sander, and I am writing to you as a concerned resident and advocate for our state parks. I recently came across discussions and attended an informational meeting regarding potential changes to camping rates and fees in our beloved New Mexico State Parks.

Understanding the financial challenges faced by our State Parks Division and the need for sustainable funding, I would like to propose a set of alternative solutions that could help strike a balance between fiscal responsibility and maintaining accessibility for all park visitors.

- 1. **Annual Day-Use Pass for Out-of-State Residents:** Acknowledging the valuable contribution of out-of-state visitors to our parks, I recommend introducing an annual day-use pass at a higher price. This would not only generate additional revenue but also recognize their role in supporting the upkeep of our state parks.
- 2. **Discounted Camping Passes for Seniors:** To encourage continued engagement in outdoor activities among seniors, I suggest implementing discounted camping passes. This not only aligns with promoting a healthy lifestyle for our elderly population but also ensures that they can enjoy our parks without financial barriers.
- 3. **Military Passes for Out-of-State Visitors:** As a gesture of appreciation for the service of our military personnel, I propose the introduction of military passes for out-of-state visitors. This initiative aims to foster a supportive and inclusive park environment, recognizing the sacrifices made by our armed forces.

These proposals are aimed at maintaining the financial sustainability of our State Parks Division while catering to the diverse needs and interests of our park visitors. I believe that a thoughtful and inclusive fee structure will not only address funding needs but also enhance the overall park experience for everyone.

I appreciate your time and consideration of these suggestions. I look forward to seeing our state parks continue to thrive as essential recreational and cultural assets for both residents and visitors.

Best regards, Danny Sander