

From: [Gina Kelley GTSB](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed fee increases
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:03:02 PM

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EMNRD:

Please reconsider the proposed fee increases for our state parks. Here at the Geronimo Trail Visitor Center in Truth or Consequences, we have the opportunity to talk with our visitors and they have shared their thoughts with us.

During the winter/spring months, a large number of retired "snowbirds" journey here from the upper mid-west and Canada. They choose to winter in Southern New Mexico for our temperate climate and affordable campgrounds. Doubling the rate for a developed campsite, plus increasing the fees for hookups, will impact their decisions on where they will spend their winter. This will have a negative impact on the economy of Sierra County. While these visitors understand that a fee increase is understandable, they feel - and we agree - that a gradual increase over a period of a few years will be less of a shock to their pocketbooks.

Additionally - New Mexico State Parks are one of the few affordable recreational options for our residents. By waiving the day use fee for NM residents but increasing the overnight fees, you are going to hurt our low income New Mexico residents. Few of our NM residents visit our area lakes for day use only; they visit Elephant Butte, Caballo & Percha for weekend getaways with their families. Perhaps a "New Mexico resident discount" can be incorporated into your fee structure.

Thank you,
Gina Kelley
Director, Geronimo Trail Scenic Byway