

**From:** [Jarahson Atkinson](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Concerned about price increase.  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 28, 2024 9:40:32 AM

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Dear New Mexico State Parks Division,

My name is Jarahson and I'm a concerned resident of New Mexico. I'm writing to express my strong opposition to any potential increases in park entrance fees or the elimination of the annual pass option.

I understand the need to fund park maintenance and improvements, but I believe that increasing prices or removing the annual pass creates unnecessary barriers for people who already struggle financially. Outdoor recreation, especially in our beautiful state parks, should be accessible to everyone regardless of their income level.

The state parks provide critical mental and physical health benefits. They are places for families to bond, individuals to find peace, and communities to connect. Restricting this access for low-income residents is unfair and could have negative consequences for our state's overall well-being.

I urge you to consider alternative revenue sources that won't disproportionately affect the less fortunate. Some possibilities could include:

Seeking additional grants and exploring public-private partnerships.

Implementing a small surcharge on outdoor gear or sporting goods.

Creating tiered pricing systems based on income levels.

I hope the New Mexico State Parks Division will reconsider any changes that would diminish the affordability and accessibility of our treasured parks.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Jarahson Atkinson