From: Kathryn A

To: <u>emnrd-parkscomments</u>, <u>EMNRD</u>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Fee Change for New Mexico State Parks.

**Date:** Sunday, March 3, 2024 6:21:17 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

My husband travels for work and we cross the country several times a year. Therefore my family and I stay at multiple NM state parks 2-4 times a year. We make a choice to do so in NM specifically because of the low prices. These sites certainly aren't as comfortable as an RV park nor are they as conveniently located. It is solely based on price and the beautiful nature that surrounds these parks that we make our stays with NM state parks. If the prices were to almost double for camping as is being proposed we would be forced to take our business elsewhere and give our money to private RV parks rather than that money going to the State. It's very disappointing to see NM take such a drastic measure and it will certainly see an equally drastic decline in camping. While they may see an increase in day use and primitive camping this will require more maintenance from state park workers. We can see the example from other states that when day use fees and primitive camping fees are removed there is less of an incentive for visitors to maintain the parks themselves and we see more destruction of property and more littering. With a decrease in traffic that generates income and an increase in traffic that generates waste there is inevitably to be a degradation of NM state parks.

Sincerely, Kathryn