

**From:** [Mildred](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments regarding proposed fee structure changes  
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Hello - thank you for giving the public a chance to comment on the proposed changes to the fee structure for NM State Parks.

I've read that you propose to eliminate the day use fees for NM residents. I feel this would be a big mistake. You will not recoup these lost fees by raising fees on other services. And once you eliminate a fee on something, it will be VERY difficult to reinstate it (if needed) in the future. As it is, you don't have the money or manpower to staff all locations so that they can be open every day (Santa Cruz Lake is an example - it's now only open from Thursday through Monday only). And since NM's rates have been low for many years, you probably have a backlog of projects that need to be done on/in many areas. Getting some of those done will make the areas more attractive, not just to locals but to visitors to NM and make people want to visit those areas more often. More visitors, more fee revenue!

Keep the Annual Passes; maybe raise the rates gradually over a few year period so that NM's rates are similar to nearby states. I don't see anything about the Senior Passes or Disabled Resident passes; I assume you'll keep those in place.

\$5 is not too high a price to pay to spend a day in the beautiful outdoor areas of NM. And, you can say that you are keeping the resident day use fee at its current low levels. Any rate increase will be unpopular but to keep pace with expenses they are occasionally necessary.

Thanks again for the chance to comment.

Mildred Griffiee