From: Richard Dilley

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fee Restructuring New Mexico Parks

Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024 9:57:40 PM

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Hello,

To whom it may concern. I believe the fee restructure process should be set to benefit NM residents who have a smaller average income than residents from surrounding states. I believe the increases at all levels should be placed on the non residents visiting our state. Many times I've seen Texas plates completely invading campgrounds and parks taking opportunities from NM residents but paying the same prices.

I believe the residency requirements are too easy to obtain and should benefit residents who have longer than a 3 month residency.

I saw plenty of examples where you show the rates of other states compared to ours but no where did I see any financial justifications for any increases. The only explanation or justification mentioned is that our fees haven't been increased for awhile, not that there's a true need for them. A lot of businesses and entities after Covid used their lack of business as a reason for increases but that are still gouging people with increases 4 years later. In other words don't just raise prices because we can. I see no reason to eliminate the Annual Pass as it seems to generate some significant revenue. It could generate more if it were more widely advertised. But an Annual Pass for a non resident should be significantly more than for a resident and should have a limit on how many non resident passes can be used on Holiday and heavy traffic dates. This will piss off the Texans but you'll make many a NM resident happy who have to work and try to find time to use our resources than the ones with the giant motor homes who have all the time in the world on their hands and invade our key spots pushing residents out.

Long term NM residency should be a definite factor in determining any of the fees or fee structures going forward in NM.