

From: [Roberta Cohen](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Comment for Fee Adjustments to Support New Mexico State Parks and possible negative effects
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 9:54:13 PM

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Dear New Mexico Parks and Recreation,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express support for the key elements outlined in the Fees Study conducted by EMNRD. Recognizing the financial challenges faced by State Parks and the importance of sustaining their mission, I believe the proposed adjustments are crucial for achieving a balance between financial stability and accessible recreational opportunities.

The suggestion to eliminate day-use fees for New Mexico residents is commendable, as it encourages local engagement and fosters a sense of community. Simultaneously, implementing a non-resident day-use fee ensures fairness and contributes to revenue generation from visitors. I also appreciate the consideration of adjusting camping and utility fees, recognizing the need for a sustainable financial model.

While the elimination of Annual Passes may raise concerns, it appears to be a strategic move to streamline the fee structure and enhance overall efficiency.

However, I would like to draw attention to the potential negative impact of eliminating Annual Passes. While streamlining the fee structure is understandable, Annual Passes often serve as an incentive for regular visitors, promoting loyalty and sustained engagement. The removal of this option may discourage some frequent park-goers and affect the sense of ownership and commitment they feel towards State Parks.

It's essential to carefully assess the repercussions of this decision, considering the long-term relationship and investment of Annual Pass holders in the State Parks system. Perhaps alternative solutions, such as tiered pass options or loyalty programs, could be explored to mitigate the potential negative consequences of this adjustment.

The proposed adjustments to boat registration and launching fees align with the principle of user-based funding, ensuring those who benefit directly contribute to the upkeep of related facilities.

In conclusion, I urge New Mexico Parks and Recreation to weigh the benefits of the proposed fee adjustments against potential drawbacks, particularly concerning the elimination of Annual Passes. This approach ensures the continued success of State Parks in enhancing natural and cultural resources, providing recreational and educational facilities, and promoting public safety for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for your dedication to preserving and enriching the lives of the community through the State Parks system.

Respectfully,

Roberta and Tom Cohen
Elephant Butte, NM