

From: [Tanner Cooper](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Mexico State Parks Fees Study
Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 9:24:59 PM

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Hello!

Thanks for your time in the presentation at Navajo Lake State Park yesterday.

I've had some time to think on it and collect my thoughts.

I believe that, had you presented purely a structured fee increase, it may not have been welcomed but would be better received by the public.

The idea of reforming the system at the same time, I believe will create conflict and prevent you from achieving your goals, as I understood them in aligning with the State Parks mission and acquiring the resources you need to manage at the State's standard.

The missions first statement is to protect and enhance our states natural resources. I'd highly suggest some form of a trial of waiving resident park fees to see what positive and negative impacts there may be before firmly taking a position. I anticipate that some parks may be overcrowded and the resources required to maintain them will need to double to effectively manage. The water bodies and wildlife, parks in general, will undoubtedly be mistreated without proper supervision.

Is the NM game and fish department aligned with this strategy and do they also have a resource ramp up/funding plan?

Secondly, I believe that the state would accept an across the board increase as we all understand inflation and in most cases don't have any say when commodity prices increase. We may not like it but it's the way of the world and that's an easier sell. Those of us who value the resources would understand and support. You want people who value the resource as your attendees.

In doing so, you'd nearly or completely achieve the funding you need to fully staff, and be a self sufficient entity. Full staff means better management, first class recreational facilities and promoting public safety. All of which are the State Park's mission.

I hope you'll consider a fee increase plan, without reforming the system at the same time.

Thank you,
Tanner Cooper

Sent from my iPhone