From: <u>Teresa Burns</u>

To: <u>emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD</u>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fee Changes

Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 11:15:02 AM

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I realize New Mexico needs to update fee changes for our parks. I support these fee increases for the most part. My comment is concerning the elimination of the annual pass, especially for senior citizens. I do realize there are those who take advantage, but I also realize many do not.

Speaking as a senior citizen on a fixed income, we are often greatly impacted with changes and have no way to make up the difference because we are mostly out of the workforce. Cost of living increases for those on social security and state retirements are far less than even insurance increases or amounts due to inflation. Again, making up for these deficits are harder for the elderly.

I am still able to camp and travel. I have found my ventures need to be closer to home. New Mexico has such great variety in our parks that I hope to be able to continue for some time to come! The benefit of the annual pass for seniors is important because it allows us to continue to enjoy what our great state has to offer and, perhaps, keeps us healthier and feeling better!

It seems resources for seniors get less and less as time goes on. I hope that this study will really look at how senior citizens are impacted and maybe including some type discount on fees will be continued.

Thank you for any considerations,

Teresa Burns