

March 13, 2024

New Mexico State Parks  
C/O Fees Study Public Comments  
1220 S St Francis Dr., STE. 215  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

NM State Parks,

I am writing you in regards to the recent fee proposals that have been published. I am a non-resident user of several NM state parks. We primarily visit Ute Lake, Conchas Lake and Oasis.

I ask that you please continue to offer Annual day use passes. I am supportive of a logical price increase on Annual Day Use passes as the need for additional revenue is understood. As a non-resident who frequents NM State Parks and is on the water at Ute Lake 40+ days annually it will cost us \$400+ to continue using the park. There is a very large number of non-residents with situations similar to this, including a significant number of retirees who are fixed income but choose to enjoy their days at NM State Parks. Many of them spend 4 to 5 days a week on the water for a few hours in the morning, fishing, the increased cost to them by having to purchase day passes will be outrageous. My Grandad is one of these people, he has had property at Ute Lake since 1964, when the dam was built. This increase will affect how he is able to use that property, not only will he have to buy an out of state fishing license, but now he will have to purchase this out of state day pass. If this passes, it will cause a large expense to him. I hate to see this financially hurt my family who has supported this lake for many, many years, a lake that I have grown up on and have lots of great memories.

We only live a mile from the NM Stateline and I own a medical business in NM and my husband works in NM, therefore, we pay a significant amount of taxes to the State of NM. We want to see the State Parks survive and thrive. As mentioned in the presentation tourism is a huge revenue generator for the state. These proposals are blatantly placing the cost of funding the parks on out of state users. I fear the economic impact to communities surrounding state parks will be substantial if tourism slows due to drastic increased cost to visit the parks. Please consider a cost structure that places a portion of the revenue generated back on in-state users.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to reconsider the Annual Day Use passes. My self as well as thousands of other non-residents want to continue to visit beautiful NM State Parks without having to take on unnecessary financial burden.

Thank you,

Tiffani Tolleson