From: <u>Tom Houston</u>

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

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fees Study Public comment Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:35:50 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I understand that it costs more to operate our State Parks. I don't disagree that prices should be increased, but the proposed amounts seem a bit excessive. I believe that out of state campers do take advantage of the low costs in New Mexico. Raise the prices for out of staters to an even higher rate than proposed. My wife and I are recently retired and looking forward to more camping and fishing. Please don't eliminate the Annual Camping Pass for seniors. Consider raising the rate to \$125.00 or maybe \$150.00 from the current \$100.00 rate. I don't think the daily rate of \$5.00 should be eliminated. It should be increased to \$7.00 to \$8.00. Overnight camping rates need to be increased but not double all at once. Maybe go from \$10.00 to \$15.00. Maybe raise electricity from \$4.00 to \$6.00. Do the math on that. Overall I believe the rates should be increased. I also believe more money should be put back into maintaining our state parks. I go to Conchas Lake quite often in the summer. The park office hasn't been open for years. The north boat launch has a big chunk of concrete missing in the left lane. It's been that way for years. I would hope some of these funds be used to better maintain our state parks.

Thank You, Tommy Houston Sent from my iPhone