

From: [Dylan Cordova](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] State Park Price increase
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 11:44:56 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

While the proposal to adjust fees for New Mexico State Parks may seem like a logical step to improve financial sustainability and support the maintenance of our natural and cultural resources, there are significant considerations to bear in mind before implementing such changes. Here are several points to rebut the key recommendations outlined:

Impact on Accessibility: Eliminating day-use fees for New Mexico residents and implementing non-resident fees could potentially hinder accessibility to our state parks for local residents. Many families and individuals rely on affordable outdoor recreational opportunities, and imposing additional fees may deter them from enjoying these spaces.

Community Engagement: State parks serve as vital community spaces where people gather, connect with nature, and participate in recreational activities. Implementing fee adjustments without adequate community engagement and input could lead to resentment and reduced public support for our state parks.

Equity Concerns: While adjustments to fees may be necessary to address financial challenges, it's essential to consider the equity implications. Increased fees could disproportionately impact low-income individuals and families, further exacerbating existing socioeconomic disparities in access to recreational opportunities.

Long-term Sustainability: While adjusting fees may provide short-term financial relief, it's crucial to evaluate the long-term sustainability of this approach. Relying solely on fee increases to fund park operations may not be a sustainable solution in the face of fluctuating economic conditions and evolving visitor preferences.

Alternative Revenue Sources: Instead of solely relying on fee increases, exploring alternative revenue sources such as public-private partnerships, grant funding, and philanthropic donations could provide additional financial support for state park operations without burdening visitors with higher fees.

Competitive Advantage: While it's important to benchmark fees against surrounding states, prioritizing competitiveness in fee structures should not overshadow the unique value proposition offered by New Mexico State Parks. Emphasizing the quality of experiences, conservation efforts, and educational programs can attract visitors regardless of fee differentials.

Preservation of Public Lands: State parks are valuable public assets that contribute to environmental conservation, biodiversity preservation, and cultural heritage protection. Any fee adjustments should prioritize the preservation and stewardship of these lands for current and future generations, rather than solely focusing on revenue generation.

In conclusion, while the proposal to adjust fees for New Mexico State Parks aims to address financial challenges and support the agency's mission, it's essential to carefully consider the potential impacts on accessibility, equity, community engagement, and long-term sustainability. Alternative approaches that prioritize public input, equity considerations, and

the preservation of our natural and cultural resources may better serve the interests of all stakeholders involved.

Thank you,

Dylan Cordova

From: [Dylan Cordova](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] State Park Price Increase
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 11:48:14 AM

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