

From: [Krycztee Battista](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fee changes comments
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 9:35:47 PM

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Good evening;

Please accept this email as a public comment in response to the proposed fee changes for New Mexico State parks.

My name is Ophelia and my husband's name is Del. We are avid state park visitors and lovers of all things "New Mexico True". Additionally, my husband is a disabled combat veteran and I myself work as an advocate for disabled veterans.

We have enjoyed the privilege of living in New Mexico for many years. My husband's family dates back generations in this great state, and after he honorably served our country he returned to New Mexico to live out his retirement. We have a 10 year old daughter who we proudly raise here, and take great pleasure in the lands provided by the state to its citizens.

As an advocate for veterans, our social circle consists mostly of elderly retired veterans who are on fixed incomes. Many live and thrive here because of the great opportunities for space and enjoyment of our many state parks.

You can imagine our dismay when we discovered the proposed changes to the entry fees for the state park lands.

Many of our friends are handicapped from serving our country and state, and the proposed changes would, in effect, prevent them from being able to afford access to the beautiful lands this state offers.

There is nothing proposed that would include veteran access - and the elimination of the annual pass would essentially make it impossible for many veterans, including my husband, to enjoy the beautiful months in summer

I understand the economic position the state presents, however I do believe that some people pay entry with currency and some pay in blood - as my husband has done.

I vehemently oppose the current changes as presented and would like an opportunity to discuss this further before any implementation is announced.

Kindly

Ophelia