

New Mexico State Parks

Presentation to the Water and Natural Resource Committee
September 26, 2024

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Eagle Nest Lake State Park



INTRODUCTION

- The last significant fee increase was in 2004 increased Day Use and added Annual Passes
- Multiple attempts at increasing fees throughout the years
- Completed a Fees Study in 2023
- Began the rule amendment process in February 2024



WHY ADJUST FEES?

- The New Mexico State Parks Division (State Parks) is an enterprise agency
- Parks are vulnerable and need to improve resiliency
- Parks and recreation are often considered non-essential services
- Operating costs are increasing
- Operational budgets have been mostly flat





STATE PARKS IS AN ENTERPRISE AGENCY

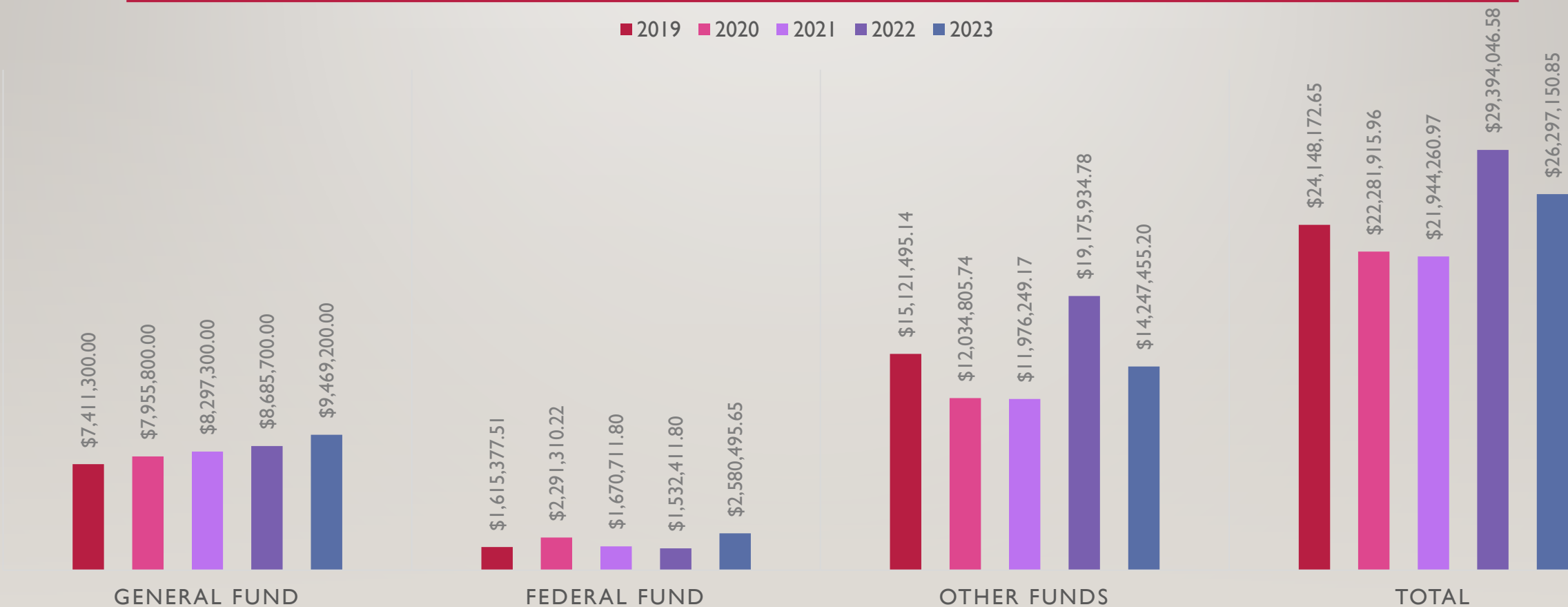
STATE PARKS IS EXPECTED TO SUPPORT ITS OWN OPERATING BUDGET THROUGH SELF-GENERATED REVENUE

ENTRANCE FEES, CAMPING FEES, AND VESSEL REGISTRATION FEES ARE CRITICAL TO FUNDING OPERATIONS

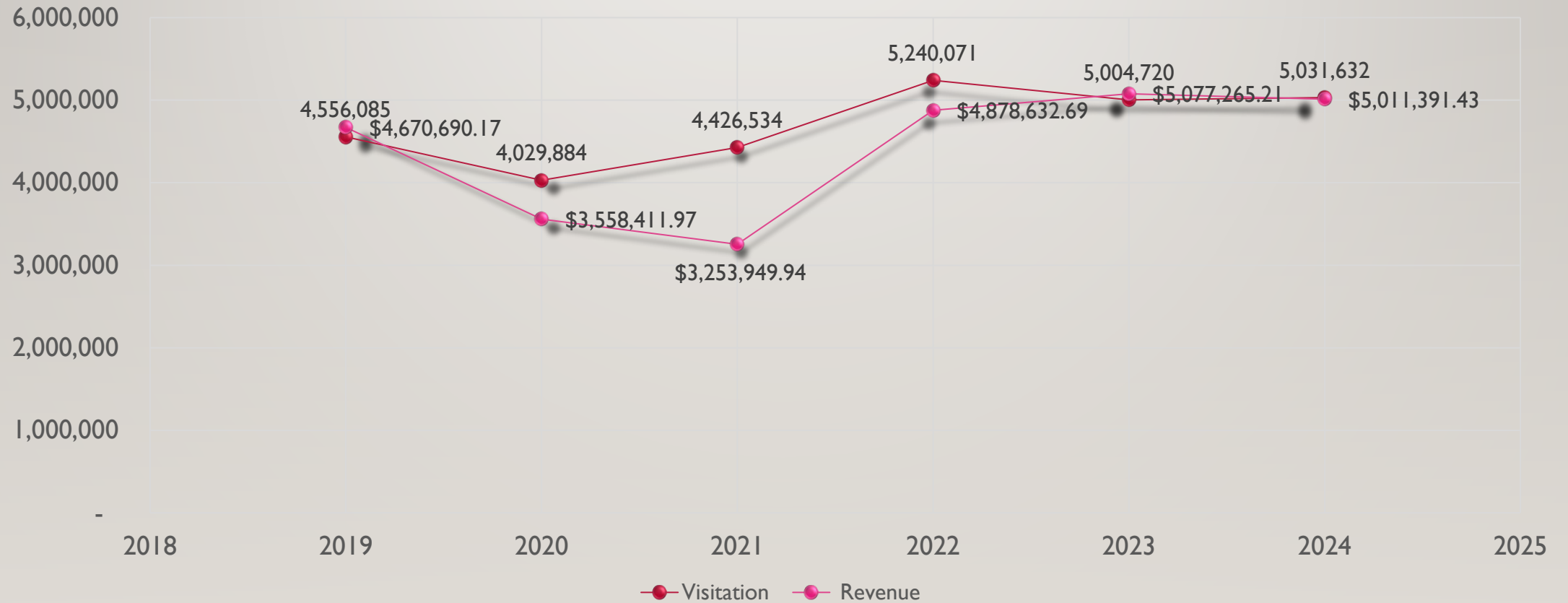
THE STATE PARKS ARE SET UP TO BE “USER PAY – USER BENEFIT” SYSTEMS

STATE PARKS OPERATING BUDGET

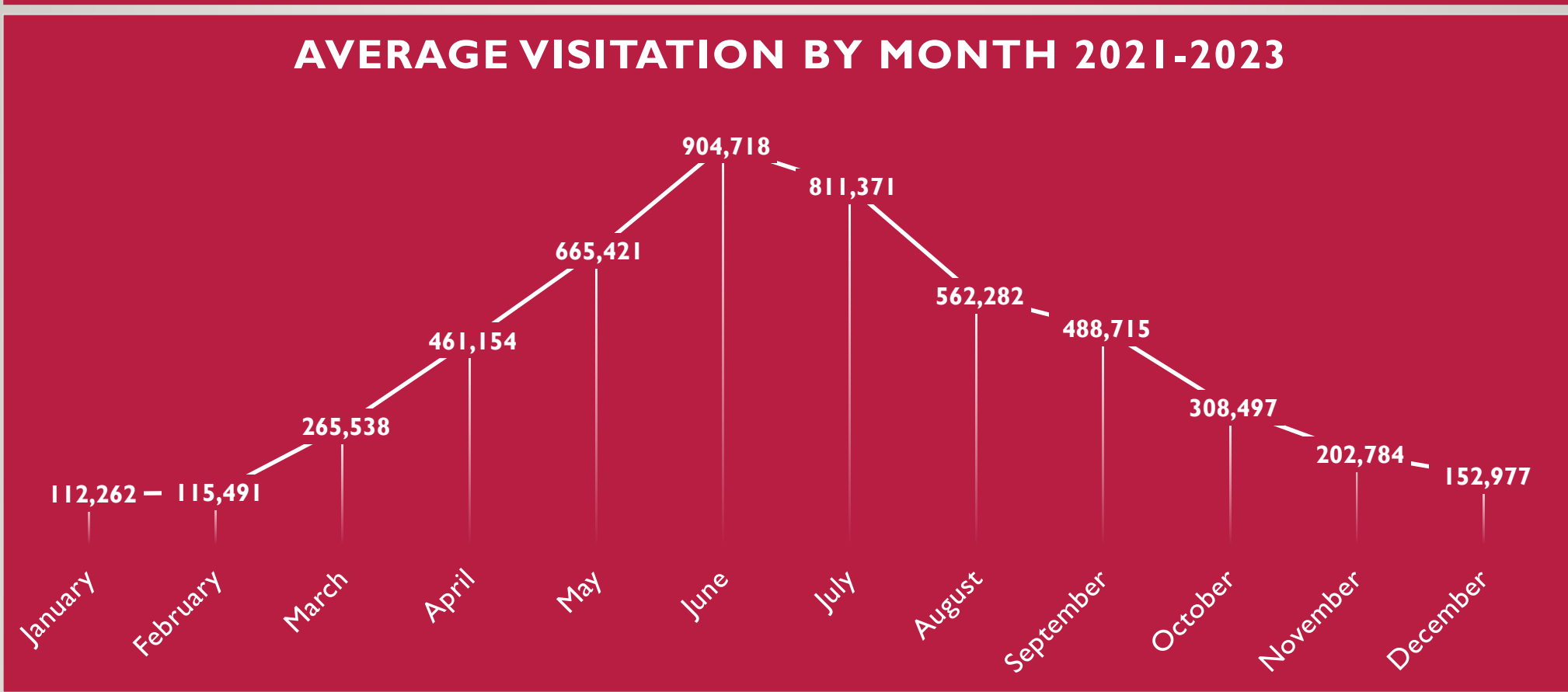
STATE PARKS BUDGET GENERAL FUND VS. OTHER SOURCES



STATE PARKS VISITATION AND REVENUE

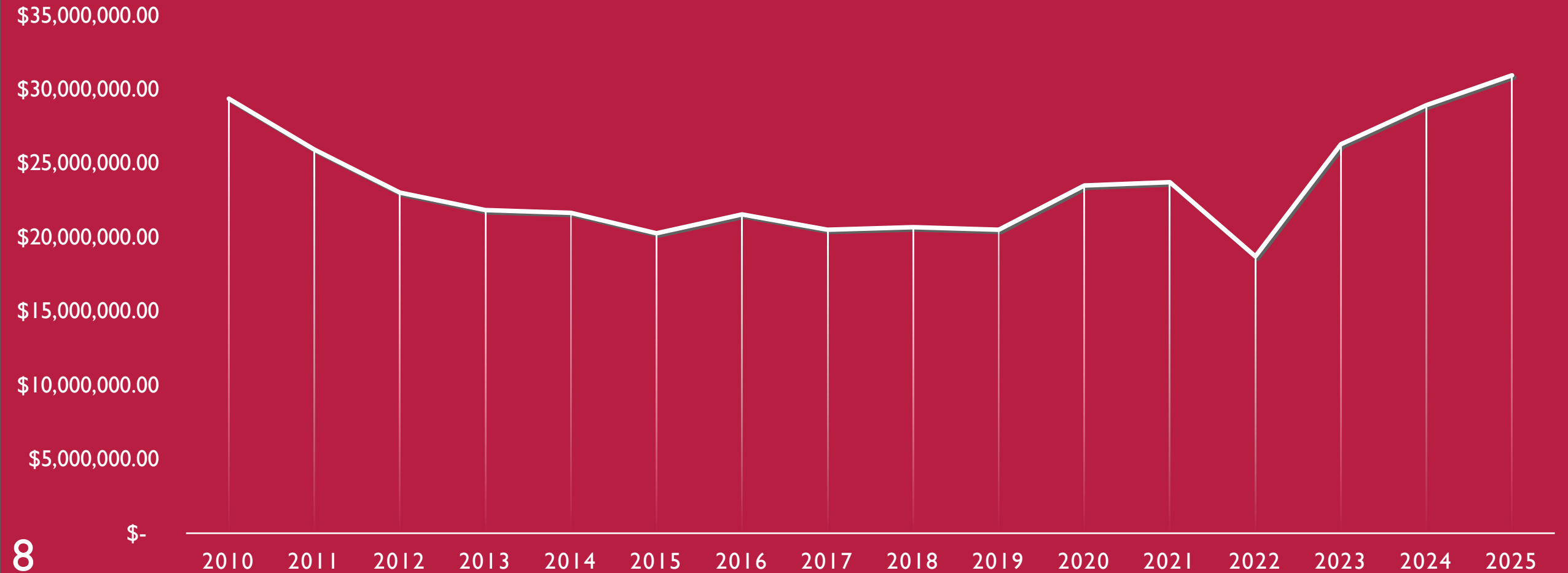


STATE PARKS VISITATION



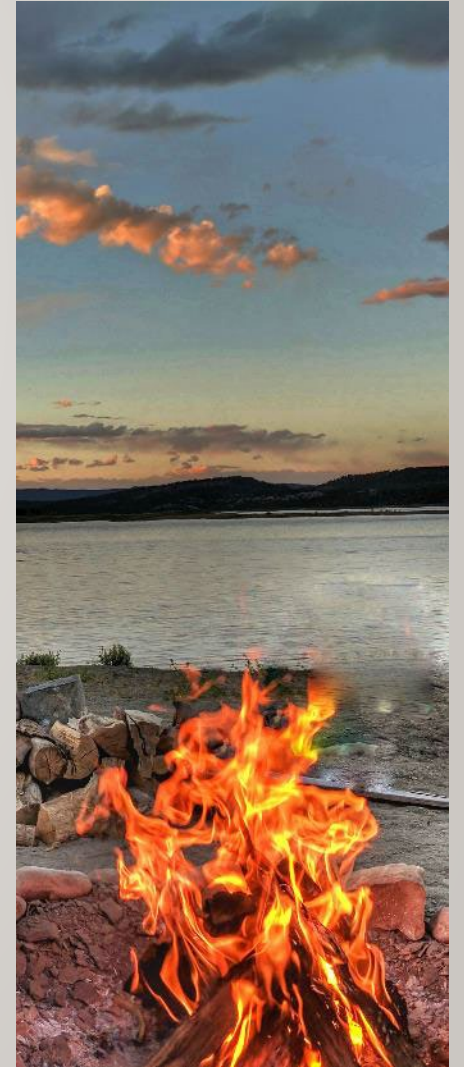
STATE PARKS OPERATIONAL BUDGET

STATE PARKS BUDGET



STATE PARKS FEES STUDY

- Began updating study in January 2023
- Completed study in July 2023
- Compared State Parks fees to surrounding states
- Compared State Parks Fees to inflation
- Found State Parks Fees were substantially behind surrounding states and inflation



STATE PARKS FEES STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Implement free day use for NM Residents
- Implement \$10 day use fee for non-residents
- Eliminate differentiation in primitive and developed camping
- Set camping fee at \$20 per night
- Set utility fees at \$10 per night
- Eliminate Annual Passes
- Increase entrance fees at Living Desert Zoo and Gardens and Smokey Bear Historical Park
- Increase boat registration fees
- Add a non-motorized vessel launch fee
- Add a per-use dump station fee

INITIAL PROPOSAL

FEE TYPE	CURRENT COST	PROPOSED COST
Day Use (Resident)	\$5.00 per vehicle	Free for Residents
Day Use (Non-resident)	\$5.00 per vehicle	\$10.00 per vehicle
Primitive Camping	\$8.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle
Developed Camping	\$10.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle
Utilities (water, electric, sewer)	\$4.00 per day	\$10.00 per day
Dump Station Fee	Free	\$10.00 per use
Annual Day-Use Pass	\$40.00	Eliminate
Annual Camping Pass	\$100-\$225	Eliminate
Living Desert Entrance Fees	\$0.50 - \$5.00	\$1.00 - \$10.00
3 Year Vessel Registration Fees	\$28.50 - \$66.00	\$75.00 - \$180.00
Vessel Launch Fee (non-motorized)	Free	\$5.00
Parking Fee (RGNC)	\$3.00	\$5.00

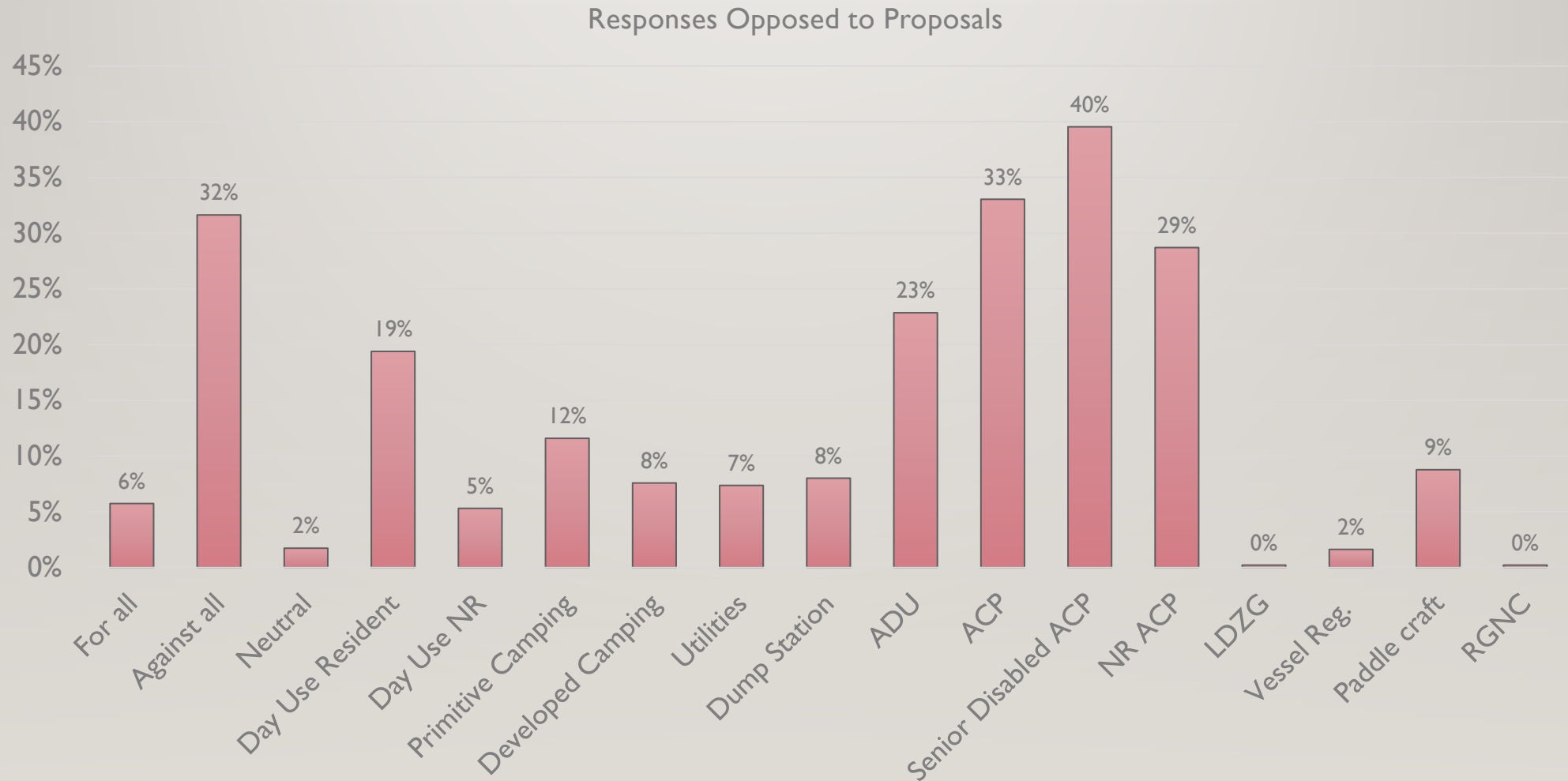


INITIAL PROPOSAL

- Developed rule change proposal in Fall 2023
- Published notice of proposed rule change in February 2024
- Conducted 12 informational meetings with over 400 participants and collected over 900 written comments regarding the proposed rule changes



PUBLIC COMMENT EVALUATION



COMMON CONCERNS WITH INITIAL PROPOSAL

- Elimination of annual passes hurts families and retirees
- Elimination of day use fees would lead to overcrowding and resource abuse
- Camping at primitive sites with no facilities should not cost the same as developed sites
- Elimination of annual passes makes visiting parks inconvenient
- NM is a poor state and increasing fees hurts people on fixed incomes
- The initial fees study compared NM to surrounding states who are economically better off than NM
- Parks need to improve maintenance and staffing
- Parks should consider dynamic pricing

REVISED PROPOSAL

- Compromised on resident day use by making fee applicable during peak season
- Maintained differentiation between primitive and developed camping
- Maintained annual passes with some modifications to processes
- Implemented differentiated fees for residents and non-residents for camping and day use
- Eliminated proposed non-motorized vessel launch fee and reduced proposed registration fees



REVISED PROPOSAL ENTRANCE FEES

FEE TYPE	CURRENT COST	INITIAL PROPOSAL	REVISED PROPOSAL
Day Use (Resident)	\$5.00 per vehicle	Free for Residents	\$5.00 peak season
Day Use (Non-resident)	\$5.00 per vehicle	\$10.00 per vehicle	\$10.00 per vehicle
Primitive Camping (Resident)	\$8.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle	\$10.00 per vehicle
Primitive Camping (Non-resident)	\$8.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle	\$15.00 per vehicle
Developed Camping (Resident)	\$10.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle	\$15.00 per vehicle
Developed Camping (Non-resident)	\$10.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle
Water hook up	Free	\$10.00 per day	\$5.00 per day
Electric hook up	\$4.00 per day	\$10.00 per day	\$10.00 per day
Sewer hook up	\$4.00 per day	\$10.00 per day	\$5.00 per day
Dump Station Fee (non-campers)	Free	\$10.00 per use (all users)	\$10.00 per use (non-campers)
Living Desert Entrance Fees	\$0.50 - \$5.00	\$1.00 - \$10.00	\$1.00 - \$10.00
Parking Fee (RGNC)	\$3.00	\$5.00 per vehicle	\$5.00 per vehicle
Smokey Bear Historical Park	\$0.00 - \$2.00	\$0.00 - \$6.00	\$0.00 - \$6.00

REVISED PROPOSAL ANNUAL PASSES

FEE TYPE	CURRENT COST	INITIAL PROPOSAL	REVISED PROPOSAL
Annual Day-Use Pass (Resident)	\$40.00	Eliminate	\$75.00 (peak season)
Annual Day-Use Pass (Non-Resident)	\$40.00	Eliminate	\$150.00
Annual Camping Pass (Resident)	\$180.00	Eliminate	\$300.00
Annual Camping Pass (Non-Resident)	\$225.00	Eliminate	\$600.00
Annual Camping Pass (NM Senior)	\$100.00	Eliminate	\$150.00
Annual Camping Pass (NM Disabled)	\$100.00	Eliminate	\$150.00
Annual Camping Pass (NM Military)	N/A	N/A	\$150.00
Replacement ACP	\$10.00	Eliminate	\$25.00

REVISED PROPOSAL VESSEL REGISTRATION

FEE TYPE	CURRENT COST	INITIAL PROPOSAL	REVISED PROPOSAL
Class A Vessel (less than 16')	\$28.50	\$75.00	\$60.00
Class I Vessel (16' – less than 26')	\$36.00	\$90.00	\$75.00
Class II Vessel (26' – less than 40')	\$43.50	\$120.00	\$120.00
Class III Vessel (40' – less than 65')	\$51.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Vessels 65' or over	\$66.00	\$180.00	\$180.00
Duplicate Registration	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Non-motorized vessel launch fee	Free	\$5.00	Free

REVISED PROPOSAL

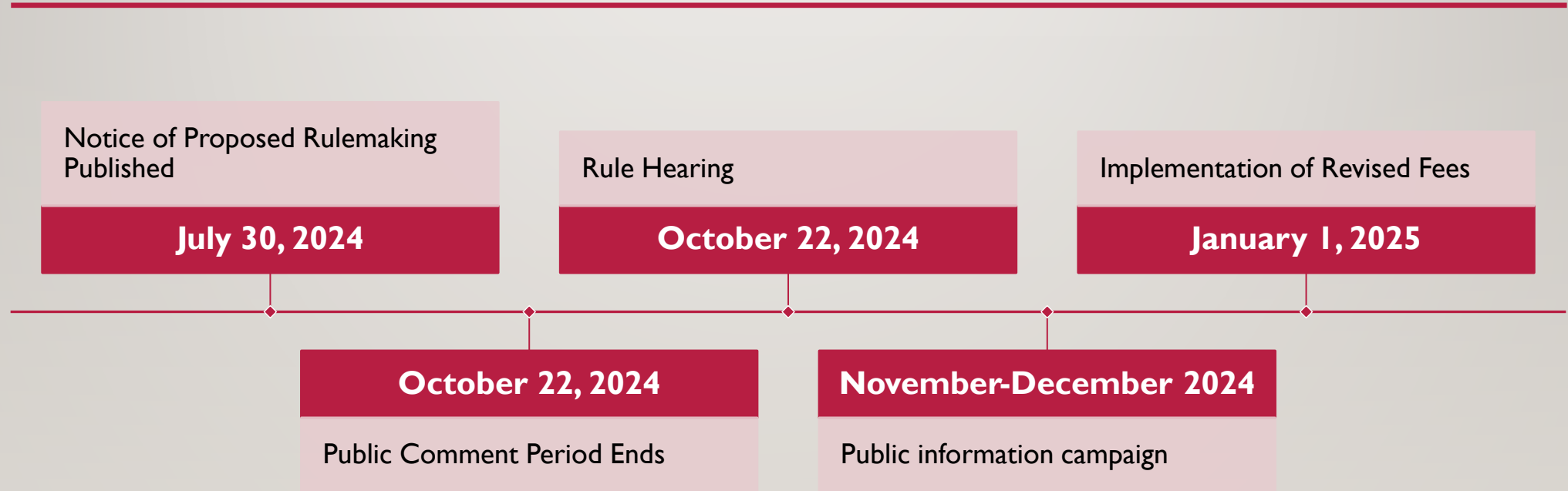
- Conducted 5 public information meetings
 - Virtual
 - Truth or Consequences
 - Albuquerque
 - Navajo Lake State Park
 - Tucumcari
- Received positive feedback and continue to receive feedback through public comment period.



COMMENTS ON REVISED PROPOSAL

- Pleased with decision to maintain annual passes
- Pleased with decision to maintain differentiation between primitive and developed camping
- Some resistance to differentiated fees for non-residents
- Some concern with increase in non-resident ACP
- Some concern with amended stay limits
- Mostly positive comments and people pleased that their input was taken into consideration

TIMELINE



SUMMARY

- Through intensive public outreach we developed a proposal that seems to be widely supported.
- We are continuing our public input period and will utilize any additional public comments to better inform our decisions.
- Implementing these changes will ensure your State Parks remains resilient into the future.



THANK YOU

