

**From:** [Ann Booker](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Citizen Comments Regarding Proposed Rate Changes for NM State Parks  
**Date:** Friday, March 1, 2024 11:24:56 AM

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After a thorough review of the presentation and proposal to rate changes, please accept the following input from a NM state resident and avid camper.

After review of the proposal, it is clear that the NM state parks do need to update the rate structure and use fees to ensure that the park system can continue to maintain and support our beloved parks.

For years, NM with its annual camping permit, has become a haven for many people seeking an inexpensive and alternative full-timer lifestyle. As a result, our state park facilities, especially in Winter in the southern half of the state, are overrun with campers from the colder climates, resulting in full parks and hard to get camping spots.

As a senior, I have long appreciated the very good deal that the annual camping permit offers to state residents. I would hate to see NM go from offering the best deal in the country to a fee structure (as proposed) that makes it more expensive than many private RV parks and the park system in surrounding states. While NM needs to raise revenue to better support the parks, the proposed rate structure of up to \$50 per night for full hookups is just too much. Furthermore, the bulk of people that take advantage of the annual camping permit by taking up seasonal residence in our parks are from out of state.

I would like to see a rate structure for camping that offers New Mexico residents a significant break in fees vis-a-vis non-residents. That can be done through a continuation of an annual camping permit or by a much more reasonable nightly camping fee than in the current proposal.

NM is not a state with a high income level in many locations and our state parks offer residents, at today's rates, an affordable place for families and couples to vacation and enjoy the beauty of our great state. Non-residents (i.e., people visiting our state that do not support the state through taxes) should have to pay a higher rate than residents, however even for non-residents, the price should not exceed the cost of RV parks or be on the highest end of the surrounding states.

My recommendation would be to have a three-tiered structure for camping rates as follows:

NM residents (consider retaining ACP or a more affordable nightly use fee)  
NM residents (senior rate) (consider retaining ACP or a more affordable nightly use fee)  
Non-residents

As regards the day use fee proposal, I would be supportive of the changes for non-residents to \$10/day/car. Continuation of the \$40/year annual fee for residents is not unreasonable if changes to the proposed rates for camping can be made.

I do not believe the goal of the rate changes is to make the cost of enjoying our parks prohibitive. There must be some compromise on all sides to ensure the parks and their facilities can continue to operate for generations to come.

Thank you for your acceptance of these comments and consideration of my recommendations.

Maria Ann Booker  
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Sent from my iPad