

From: [Barbara](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recommended Revisions of State Park Fees
Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 4:42:32 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I totally get it that our NM State Parks are in need of more revenue to manage changes caused by inflation etc. I think it's imperative that we consider that OUT OF STATE visitors (did you say 5 Million) might be the place to look for raising the rates. I'm a senior citizen who has finally been able to utilize our wonderful state parks for overnight camping (2022 to present) because of the ACP pass. At the very least, perhaps you could raise the rate of the annual pass just a bit while at the same time, implementing a lower rate for Seniors! (Following the National Parks pass that's also used for USFS parks.) I have been so thankful to take advantage of the annual pass which allows me to camp more often AND, having the pass is a real incentive to stay within our own beautiful state. Given that we have SO MANY "out of staters" who come to NM, wouldn't it be better to raise the "Out of State Rates"? Also, "Day Use" fees probably do not generate much income, and, being that it's usually an "on your honor" pay system, I can see that the lost revenue from eliminating it won't make an appreciable difference.

Another thing that I've noticed over and over is the MANY campsites that are not occupied while at the same time, campers looking for a site can't occupy them because the reservation was made months in advance and the people who made the reservation don't show up. I think the reason this happens so often is because it costs more to cancel than it does to just not show up. Review the rules and you'll see what I'm talking about. In addition to that, Since Reserve.gov & Reserve America have taken over the booking of reservations, Camp Hosts are not able to allow campers to book a site that has obviously been abandoned (the tickets posted at the camp site, show the dates in/out and MANY times I've noticed campsites that have been booked for two weeks are empty. Presumably, the reservation was paid for in advance so the State doesn't lose the money, BUT, it's VERY frustrating to see empty campsites that the camp host can't open up to someone else..... even though the rules say you have 24 hours to occupy your site. I've seen this time and time again. The rules are not enforced because the camp host is not able to communicate on a daily basis with the reservation people to know the site has been cancelled, or is a NO SHOW. There needs to be a way the camp hosts can communicate with Reservations to know what's going on. The rules could be enforced - open up the "no show" spots if it is not occupied within 24 hours of the check in date AND the guest has not notified the Reservationist about changes. I think its possible that people make reservations early in the year and then don't worry about showing up. It happens so frequently!

One other thing - I've noticed that some of our older parks are in rough shape while the newer ones have more amenities and are kept in better condition. This seems to be evident in comparing campgrounds in the Northern part of the State to campgrounds in the Southern Part of the State. This might be due to the fact that the Northern Part of the state has "older" parks. I'm guessing you are all very much of this and do the best you can with the resources you have.

I'll end by saying that I am GRATEFUL for every park and every employee (and volunteers) who make camping in NM such a wonderful experience. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else in the entire world! I love NM!

Thank you

Barbara