

**From:** [Brian Rees](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] State Park Fee proposed changes  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2024 12:16:14 PM

---

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

First of all I want to say that I'm a user of NM State Parks, and am consistently impressed with the maintenance, upkeep, and amenities of our state parks as well as the outstanding staff in our parks.

I have been frustrated on numerous occasions when trying to stay at a park and not always being able to reserve a spot in advance, and finding it full when we arrive. But I don't have a good suggestion for how to fix that either.

As far as fee changes, I support increases, even though they will impact me. I want to suggest that camping and other fees for non-residents be raised even higher, even if it's largely a symbolic difference such as an additional \$5.00. The taxes of residents subsidize our parks (which I'm fine with), so I think it's fair to ask non-residents to pay a little more.

I am curious about fees for utilities, I am totally self-sufficient in my teardrop camper, and have no need for utilities. Paying \$4 is an inconvenience, but it supported State Parks. A \$10 fee for utilities, along with \$20 instead of \$10 for a site, is getting pricey for something I don't need. Including a "I won't use utilities" check box on the site registration card and imposing a \$100 fee for using them after making the assertive claim on the form could accommodate this concern, although it might encourage the use of generators, which I abhor!

I am a Veteran and Senior citizen, and would like to see an annual camping pass option for those categories. It's not about the \$\$, it's the principal. I understand your position regarding people abusing stays, but this could be solved (IMHO) by imposing a 5 or 10 day park stay limit. FWIW, I deeply appreciate the veterans discount I get on my fishing license every year.

I have a (homebuilt) kayak and won't enjoy the \$5.00 launch fee, but I understand and support it.

Again, I enjoy our State Parks, support what you're doing with them, and want to extend thanks and appreciation from my family to your park staff for all they do.

Brian Rees  
41 Calle Milpa  
Santa Fe NM 87507