

From: [Bruce Saunders](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on NM recreation fees etc.
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 4:14:02 PM

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We have spent much time in NM over the past several years enjoying their parks and other facilities and also have camp-hosted for a winter season at one of the parks.

While hosting, and while visiting nearly all of NM State Parks, we witnessed several in poor condition and in need of substantial maintenance, repairs, and upgrades. These cost money to bring them up to and maintain them at NM and guest expectations.

The current rates for several facilities are far too low and do not support the funding necessary to regularly complete these tasks.

As a regular guest, I would recommend:

*An immediate increase of at least \$5 per night and then an annual increase for both dry camping and camping with utilities to one day become more closely aligned with surrounding states. Maybe consider adding a daily entrance fee to the camping fee.

*I believe NM residents should also contribute to facilities welfare and I would not eliminate day-use fees but would consider a \$1 or \$2 increase and adding in some free days for them as an off-set. We witnessed Sundays to be a huge family day in the parks so maybe look at free entrance on that day only;

*I believe non-resident day-use fees could be raised to \$10 now without slowing volume;

*Eliminating annual passes may be a good idea both from an administrative and a fiscal perspective. If these passes were retained, maybe consider eliminating their use for camping fee reductions or limiting them to NM residents only;

*I can't comment on the boat launching fees but if you can afford the boat, motor, fuel, license, taxes, fishing gear, travel to the lake, and everything else that goes with water recreation I would think a fee increase is justified;

*I would consider at least a nominal increase in entrance fees for historical facilities, monuments, and others where appropriate to do so together with a graduated increase structure thereafter.

We love your parks and thank you for all you do.

Bruce Saunders

Colorado