

**From:** [Carol Ashley](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed State Park Fee Increases  
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Two other campers and I did an informal survey at Percha and all of Caballo. About 90% of campers said they could no longer come back at the proposed rates. Many did say they would be happy to see the ACP doubled or at least increased significantly. A couple RVers said that besides an increased ACP fee, they would be ok with paying \$8 to \$10 for the nightly fee. As for adding a fee for the non-RV areas, most seemed that doubling the ACP was what they could afford and in a few cases, a small additional nightly fee—less than \$5.00

I also talked to three young couples, who were dubious about coming back under the increased \$20 for a weekend. Two couples were tenters. The third I met on the road. They had two children--one a disabled child in a stroller. These are people who are part of the future of the state park system. I would guess a very small increase might be doable.

As for the comment on people living here but not for recreation, I beg to differ. True that many of us are living on wheels, some long-haulers, some snow birds. But most of us are here to enjoy nature, to be able to get out for walks in the winter, to watch birds, enjoy the wildlife, identify plants. We enjoy photography and some of us engage in artistic pursuits related to nature. Most of us head farther north during the summer so aren't using the parks year round on our ACP. Yes, there are probably some who are *just* living in their RVs or vans and maybe staying in the park system year round, but that's probably a minority. Furthermore, many of us pick up trash that others or the wind leaves behind. We do it because we enjoy clean public spaces and natural spaces

Finally, I want to add that most of us recognize we have gotten a good deal and recognize that the state park system needs funding. We appreciate the excellent staff and think they deserve adequate raises. We hope a solution can be found that keeps the parks maintained and staffed as well as providing us the opportunity to come. Please consider much more gradual increases and make a jump on the ACPs.

Carol Ashley