

From: [Manley, Carrie](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] state park camping pass
Date: Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:31:46 PM

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Hello

I am a longtime lover of New Mexico and her state parks.

As a matter of fact, my husband and I began our marriage in March of 2000 traveling around your lovely state, and have returned every anniversary since. We dedicate 4- 6 weeks/year camping in New Mexico in all seasons.

While I live and work in Colorado, I spend my vacation time in New Mexico. We often say our work lives are in CO, but our heart is in New Mexico, and we hope to retire there within the next 5 years.

Your mountains and prairies are just as beautiful as Colorado, but feel more like mother nature's home rather than a tourist destination. I have personally camped in over 50% of your parks over the years. I have spent a ton of money on gas, food and other entertainment while traveling. We purchase the yearly camping pass, and your low cost access to camping makes it easier for me to make the extra effort to get there.

I understand you are considering raising the prices of camping in your state parks.

I do feel some of your parks could use a little bit of TLC and upgrades, but I think this may fall under the old saying "cutting off your nose to spite your face."

Raising prices a percentage would benefit everyone who uses the parks- locals and visitors. Making drastic changes to your pricing structure could actually have the opposite effect. I'm sure, I wouldn't be the only one to look elsewhere (maybe someplace closer to home) if the prices were to go up significantly or if the ability to purchase the pass went away.

Your brilliant state has a good thing going with your annual camping pass. People come from all over to access it. You have no competition... there is no other state that does this. You have a monopoly- use it- take advantage of it! Please do not remove it.

I drive right by a significant number of Colorado State parks to use my NM State Camping pass. If you raise your rates to be the same as Colorado, I'd probably just save the gas money and stay here.

Please consider raising the rates a reasonable 10%. Charge for dumping sewage. I would be willing to volunteer one day per week at my campsites. Please consider alternatives to a radical fee change. Take advantage of some of the federal dollars that NM has missed for outdoor recreation. Please don't take away one of my favorite things about camping in New Mexico. I'm sure towns like Mountainaire, Columbus, Las Vegas, Questa, Deming, Truth or Consequences, Clayton, Alamagordo, Taos, Tukumcari and Silver City would miss me and my tourist dollars.

Carrie Manley

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