

**From:** [Charlie Lujan](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed State Park Fees  
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I, Charlie Lujan, as a New Mexico resident and frequent user of New Mexico state parks, would like to make a few comments about the proposed changes to state park fees.

I agree that increases in fees is long overdue but some of your proposed fee increases, I think, are too high.

As a retiree, my wife and I enjoy fishing and camping and the majority of our camping trips are to state parks. We have visited state parks for many years and have been using the senior annual camping permit for the last ten years.

We tend to camp in New Mexico simply because it is a bargain compared to neighboring states.

With this said, I would like to share my opinion on the proposed fees:

#### Day Use fees

Do not eliminate day use fees for NM residents, it is like anything else, once you make it free, people will abuse it in one form or another.

Leave day use at \$5 for residents, increase annual day use to \$60-\$80. At the current rate, a day use pass is free after less than three weekend trips to a state park.

Increase non resident day use fee to \$10.

Eliminate the annual day use pass for non residents.

#### Camping fees

I think \$20 per site is reasonable but the addition fees for utilities is too steep.

I think \$5 for water and \$5 electric hookup is more reasonable and not all parks have water at all sites such as Manzano and Villanueva. I think water is a basic necessity but at the same time, I have seen people abuse and waste water.

I think proposed sewer and dump fees are fairly reasonable, but considering all proposed fees, a campsite would almost triple current rates. At \$30 for a site with water and electric, this would be

comparable to neighbor states.

### Annual Camping Permits

Current ACP is 18 times the daily fee. Under proposed fees, 18 times (\$360) is too high. A more reasonable fee would be \$275-\$300 and could be offset by eliminating ACP's for non residents.

I think ACP's for seniors and disabled NM residents should be kept and should be at the same rate of 10 times the daily fee (\$200).

These rates would benefit NM residents and eliminate the abuse by non residents as stated in your study.

As for the other proposed fees, I have no input since we do not use this facilities. I also have no input on in watercraft fees even though I have a boat.

One additional comment would be in regard to reservations. In reading your study, the state does not have the capability to match what Reserve America provides so my suggestion to Mr. Velasquez previously for the state to set up a reservation system and use the fees to supplement the state parks is mute. But at the same time, I don't agree that all state parks should be by reservation only. There were many of times before they implemented the reservation requirement, that we would show up at our favorite park, Caballo Lake, on a week day and have no problem finding a campsite. Also, I think that the check in time of 4PM is wrong due to the fact that at that time, all you have time is to set up camp and prepare a meal. I think a more reasonable time frame is check out at 12PM and check in at 2PM.

That is all the input I have and thank you for allowing me to do so.

Charlie Lujan

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