

From: [Dave Shellenberger](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Mexico State Parks Fees Study rule changes
Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 9:14:11 AM

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Your proposed fee increases will result in a decrease in my use of New Mexico State parks.

You are concerned that your fees do not keep pace with surrounding states. This right now is your big advantage. You don't need to keep pace with surrounding states, rather with USFS facilities.

I am a recently retired Arizona resident. I've spent my career in the ranks of the working poor, and my retirement reflects my lifelong avoidance of extravagance. I do, however, plan to spend my twilight years traveling and camping in the Western US.

Since I turned 62 several years ago, I've been blessed with the use of my National Park Lifetime Senior Pass. Here in Arizona, State Parks are a lousy deal compared to National Parks and USFS campgrounds. I never go to Arizona State Parks. Last summer I traveled and camped in New Mexico, and found the State Parks to be a good deal, at least compared to those in Arizona.

I would be in favor of fees that relate to user's impact on the environment and the enjoyment of other users. Users of power boats should pay hefty fees to compensate for their noise and pollution. Users of giant RVs should pay hefty fees for their impact of the roads as well as their noise and pollution.

I use an HEV to tow a tiny teardrop camper. I respect the environment and those around me. If the State of New Mexico demands high user fees I will simply go elsewhere.

Please do not implement high user fees, at least for minimalist campers. Please do not eliminate annual passes. Doing so will have the effect of me eliminating New Mexico as a destination.

Regards,
Dave Shellenberger
Tucson, AZ.