

From: [David Wilt](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed fee structure changes
Date: Thursday, February 29, 2024 10:30:27 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello...

Thank you for letting us know of the fee structure planning activity. We are very supportive of NM State Parks and are all for keeping them properly supported.

I wanted to offer some thoughts on the proposed fee plans:

- 1) eliminating day use fees for residents is very nice, particularly in a state with many low income residents.
- 2) Increasing the camping costs is understandable and we generally support that, if the fee increases enables the campgrounds to be better maintained and updated. However, it might be nice to tier the fees differently for residents and non-residents, as we (residents) already support the parks thru our taxes.
- 3) Elimination of the annual camping pass is interesting. I am aware of many out of state visitors using our parks to winter away from colder climates. Even with this influx of visitors, we haven't had any troubles obtaining camping spots, so making this change in order to open up camping options doesn't seem to be an actual issue. I am concerned that eliminating the annual pass and raising the fees will push campers toward the national forest campgrounds and public land boondocking areas. These are already showing signs of over use and abuse. I would be in favor of keeping the annual passes and perhaps increasing their costs. Having all of these winter visitors come to NM is a good thing for local economies (ie Columbus NM), so there's a balance of cost/benefits that needs to be considered.

Regards,

Dave