

From: [Eric Pitcher](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on NM State Parks Fees Study
Date: Sunday, March 10, 2024 3:53:48 PM

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

Please do not eliminate the Annual Camping Pass (ACP) for NM residents. I find that once purchased, it serves as a great incentive to visit our wonderful state parks. I support the elimination of an ACP for non-residents. Consider a different fee structure for NM resident ACP purchases, such as a discounted nightly rate but still requiring an added nominal cost per night.

I agree that the current nightly rate for camping should be raised, especially the \$4 differential charged for electricity and water. I do not like the idea of having to pay an additional \$10 to use a dump station. I fear this may encourage illegal dumping, which would be a terrible unintended consequence. Given the heavy use of the dump stations, how will this fee be collected in an efficient manner, for example at 6:30 in the morning when the early birds leave the campground?

I oppose the trend to transition almost all campsites to the ReserveAmerica reservation system. Their web site is clunky and the rates charged (\$4 per night for the first three nights) is expensive. More than once I have arrived late at night at a State Park campground to find the camp site I reserved ahead of time is not suitable for some reason. To change, I must pay ReserveAmerica at least \$14 to cancel my current reservation and pay another \$4 to reserve an alternate site. It is crazy to charge such high cancellation fees because then people will not pay to cancel their unused reservations. This is evident when you drive through any campground late at night and see multiple reserved but unoccupied sites. Please change the ReserveAmerica cancellation fee structure such that it will encourage folks to cancel a reservation when it won't be used.

Please keep a substantial fraction (40 to 50%) of the camp sites available for use on a first-come, first-served basis, rather than having to be booked through ReserveAmerica, particularly for those campgrounds with limited cell service.