

From: [Gregory Buntain](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments](#), [EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on 18.17.2 Boating Operation and Safety, and 19.5.1 General Provisions, and amend rules 19.5.2 Park Visitor Provisions, and 19.5.6 Park Fees
Date: Thursday, February 29, 2024 2:55:20 PM

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Hello.

Thank you for taking the time to review my comments regarding the Subject line topics.

- Annual Camping Passes (ACP)
 - Out-of-state campers horribly abuse the NM State Parks by essentially living full or nearly-full time in our State Parks (I have even talked to numerous out-of-state campers who told me they do this). The ACP should be eliminated for out-of-state individuals.
 - I hate to see the ACP completely eliminated for in-state campers and offer a couple of alternative options
 - Raise the price for in-state ACP purchases to something economically sensible; or
 - Sell in-state ACP that still requires a daily use payment, albeit at a lower rate. For instance an annual ACP might sell for \$200 and still require \$10 for no-utility camping and \$15 for utility camping.
- Reserve America
 - State Park reliance on Reserve America is absolutely awful. Their web site is problem prone and their daily fee's (\$4 per day for first three days) in addition to the reservation or date-change fee (\$6) is ridiculous. Furthermore, they charge you extra to cancel your reservation. This results in many reserved, but vacant camp sites (who wants to pay additional fees to cancel instead of just not showing up?). Cancellations should be free or people should have to confirm reservations a day or two before their reservation to maintain it.
 - When traveling one might happen upon a NM State Park and want to spend the night. Many State Parks have poor or non-existent cell phone service making it necessary to drive around looking for cell phone service to make a camping reservation. I have talked to Park staff who would not let me stay there until I drove away to get cell service and make a Reserve America reservation. That's ridiculous.
 - Instead, have some percentage of sites available through Reserve America, some percentage available for on-site payment, and some percentage first-come, first served.

Respectfully,

Gregory Buntain
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