

From: [H.Tryon](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fee Study Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 12:19:05 PM

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Hello, I am an out-of-state visitor, and I often camp in New Mexico state parks. I am also an Annual Camping Pass (ACP)holder. I've read the recommendations in your fee study summary (provided to me by a volunteer at Elephant Butte Lake State Park). I have the following comments:

- 1) If you are going to raise the rates, which I believe is both necessary and long overdue, please provide HOT water in the showers and hand sanitizer in the pit toilets.
- 2) If a visitor has paid the camping fee, then they should not have to pay a separate dump station fee.
- 3) While I agree with the proposed increase in utility fees, it should be a single utility fee, including water and electricity (and sewer if available), rather than a separate fee for each utility. Even though I do not use park water (I buy purified water), I believe all campers should help pay for all of the park infrastructure.
- 4) The stated justification for eliminating the annual camping pass (ACP) is that it, "Encourages non-recreational use of parks... and allows manipulation of the reservation system, resulting in negative impacts to other customers."

Please define what "non-recreational use" means. As long as ALL visitors are required to abide by park rules (including stay limits, etc.), then all visitors should be welcomed and treated equally.

Please also explain what sort of, "manipulation of the reservation system" is occurring, and exactly how it negatively impacts other customers.

- 5) Although it was not mentioned in the summary of your fee study, I highly recommend deleting the \$5 cancellation fee.

As an ACP holder, in order to make a cancellation for an electric site (for which I am paying the additional four dollars), it costs me five dollars to cancel. If I cancel, I am out nine dollars; the four dollars for the electric fee plus the five dollars to cancel.

If I simply do a "no-show," I am only out four dollars (and, of course, the nonrefundable reservation fee, which applies whether or not I cancel). In other words, your current system rewards no-shows, and penalizes people who want to cancel to make the site available for other customers.

I have only had one occasion to cancel a reservation, and I happily did so, even though it cost me five dollars. I have two reasons: 1) I feel I have an obligation to other campers to open up a site if I am not going to use it. 2) I can easily afford the extra five dollars. However, this is not the case for all of your visitors.

I do not know how many ACP holders fail to cancel their reservations in order to avoid this fee, but it is certainly something worth considering.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.
Heidi Tryon