

**From:** [Johnathan Ortiz](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FEE Study Comment  
**Date:** Friday, March 15, 2024 5:04:39 PM

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Good Afternoon:

The proposed fee structure will most likely have a negative impact for NM Parks and result in less campers and less revenue. For 25+ years, my wife and I have enjoyed camping at several State Parks in NM, specifically Northern NM. Camping in our 22ft camper with family has been the highlight of our summer. We are both 60+ years of age and particularly like the benefit of the Annual Camping Pass. While it is necessary to increase fees, we believe that the proposed fee structure is excessive and does not take into account the need for non-residents to pay more than residents. There needs to be a benefit for NM residents who pay NM income tax above and beyond out of state residents who pay no income tax. Yes, out of state residents pay other taxes when visiting NM, but we too pay those same taxes contributing to local economies in the same manner.

Consider the following:

1. Non-residents pay more to hunt game in NM. Why shouldn't non-residents pay more to use our state parks since they do not pay NM Income Tax that partially funds our State Park Division?
2. The \$5 day use fee should not be eliminated. Why would you lose out on \$900,000 in yearly revenue? By eliminating the \$5 fee it will create a hardship for the Rangers with extra traffic that may place Rangers and campers in harms way. As an alternative, perhaps you should consider having Free Family Day one day a month in June, July and August.
3. Keep the ACP, especially for NM Residents. I would suggest the ACP rates for seniors, disabled and veterans be raised to \$200 annually and \$280 for other NM Residents. For Non-Residents, raise the ACP fee to \$500 annually or eliminate it for that group altogether.
4. Charging \$10 for water and \$10 for electricity each night is quite expensive. No consideration has been given to the size/class of RV being utilized despite the question being asked when making a reservation. If a person stays 5 nights, charging \$50 for water and \$50 for electricity is quite high. My wife and I pay less in water for one full month to our City utility company and on average \$50 per month to PNM for electricity. It is not right to charge everyone the same for water and electricity without considering the RV. When camping at sites without water, we have made our holding tank of 40 gallons of potable water last 10 days. It's unreasonable to think that campers are abusing water unless they are directly hooked up to sewer. Perhaps you should consider gradually raising these fees over time and capping water at \$5 per night, and capping electricity at \$7 per night. It is unreasonable to think that folks camping in a 21ft trailer uses the same amount of water and electricity as someone camping in a "celebrity" sized Greyhound bus with 3 AC units or a 30+ foot 5th wheel with slide-outs and 2 AC units.
5. Raising overnight fees from \$10 to \$20 is excessive. Charge NM Residents \$13.00 per

night and Non-Residents \$20 per night.

6. Charging campers \$10 to dump is excessive given the other proposed increases. By charging a \$10 dump fee, it will most likely lead to illegal dumping along the side of the road, on forest land, etc. You will now be creating an environmental problem. Yes, Love's and others charge \$10 per use, but this fee should be based on the size of RV starting \$4 up to \$10 per use.

7. You must improve your reservation system to not allow individuals to make multiple reservations on duplicate dates. In addition, to give everyone equal access to sites at NM Parks, some methodology needs to be in place to prevent campers from alternating back and forth every 7-14 days between the same parks all summer long. For example, moving back and forth every 2 weeks between Coyote Creek and Hyde Park.

8. Again, your reservation website needs to be drastically improved to account for RV size, residency, etc. and give park Rangers the ability to assess correct fees for anyone who makes reservations with inaccurate basic details.

Thank you.

**From:** [Johnathan Ortiz](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fee Study Comment  
**Date:** Monday, March 18, 2024 10:37:30 PM

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3. Keep the ACP, especially for NM Residents. I would suggest the ACP rates for seniors, disabled and veterans be raised to \$200 annually and \$280 for other NM Residents. For Non-Residents, raise the ACP fee to \$500 annually or eliminate it for that group altogether.
4. Charging \$10 for water and \$10 for electricity each night is quite expensive. No consideration has been given to the size/class of RV being utilized despite the question being asked when making a reservation. If a person stays 5 nights, charging \$50 for water and \$50 for electricity is quite high. My wife and I pay less in water for one full month to our City utility company and on average \$50 per month to PNM for electricity. It is not right to charge everyone the same for water and electricity without considering the RV. When camping at sites without water, we have made our holding tank of 40 gallons of potable water last 10 days. It's unreasonable to think that campers are abusing water unless they are directly hooked up to sewer. Perhaps you should consider gradually raising these fees over time and capping water at \$5 per night, and capping electricity at \$7 per night. It is unreasonable to think that folks camping in a 21ft trailer uses the same amount of water and electricity as someone camping in a "celebrity" sized Greyhound bus with 3 AC units or a 30+ foot 5th wheel with slide-outs and 2 AC units.
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