

From: [Kristine Olsen](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments RE: Fee changes at NM state Parks
Date: Monday, March 25, 2024 11:58:56 PM

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I have several things regarding the changes to Park fees, but my biggest disappointment is this:

So for a state that relies on Tourism, you are totally sending the wrong message to out of state travelers by charging NON-Residents a fee and doing away with the day use fee for NM residents. I have spent a majority of my life in the tourism industry and if you want to turn folks away from NM that will do it. Either charge everyone a fee or charge no day use fee to anyone. Many of the surrounding towns near the state parks rely on travelers to come spend one, two, three night or more and if they come and have to pay \$10 day use fee each day because they came from out of state they may only stay one night or not come at all.

I understand NM Residents using the parks for free, but if you want out of state folks to come visit and stay in NM they, like me will be outraged and disgusted at having to pay \$10 day use fee when it is free to NM residents. If you insist on keep day use fee then it has to stay at \$5 from out of state or they won't come. At the very minimum keep the annual permit so non residents don't feel so betrayed and ripped off.

I grew up in NM and love this state. I still consider myself a NM Resident even though my Drivers License and registration show I live in TEXAS. My job took me to TEXAS many years ago, but I spend more time in NM than in TEXAS these days. So I visit many of the State Parks in NM.

If you insist on keeping the Day use fee here are some additional comments

Keep the Annual Day Pass is a MUST - for two reasons

1. this might be helpful for folks who don't have vehicles registered in NM but own property in NM. At many places in NM out of state residents own property in NM but don't have vehicles registered. I think they should be able to use the parks free of charge just like NM Residents. They could submit an application for an annual permit and provide a copy showing they own property and get the annual pass at no charge.
2. If you keep the annual day use pass, am ok with paying a little more for an annual pass like maybe \$60-\$75 for the year. We like to stop and drive around looking and checking conditions sometimes before we decided if we are going to stay and fish. The nice thing about having an annual pass is that we don't have to hunt down a pay station if we decided to stay for more than 10 or 15 minutes or we are not forced to pay the day use fee if we end up not staying.

3. If you decided to keep the day use fee's the only other major thing is making it easier to pay the use fee other than the old outdated system. By doing away with the Day Use fee completely then that would be one less hassle for state park employees and less hassle for visitors to the park and make it an overall more enjoyable experience.

I agree with increasing the boat fees, seems like it is way behind inflation.

As for Camping - We don't camp so I don't have much insight into this, but from what I can tell the fees seem to be a little high for just tent camping. Lots of folks do this because they can afford it, especially with family. And if you are trying to encourage more folks to get out and enjoy the state parks that won't help having to pay \$20 per night for basic camping. A more reasonable fee would be \$10 or \$12 dollars.

Here is another instance where I think the Annual Camping Permit is a must. I would think about these only for NM Residents and out of state pay when they stay and same for any NM resident that doesn't have annual pass.

Those who have camp trailers and RV;s are a little different. I agree with paying for services like Electricity, water and such. Annual Pass holders could pay extra for services if needed, but again, keep it affordable.

I would also decrease the number of night with annual pass from 14 day to 10 days to help keep folks from "living" in the parks. I think generally most folks won't say more than 7 to 10 days when they are vacationing. You could have a special fee for extended stays with Annual passes if they wanted to say up to 14 days.

Generally I think we would visit NM Parks as much as we do now or maybe even more if the day use fee stays at \$5 for NON residents (provided you keep this) and is easy to pay. If it goes away completely we probably would visit more often. But at \$10 we most likely would think twice about visiting the parks and paying the fee, especially if we don't stay for the Day only a short time. For example: Cimarron Canyon area, we might stop and try fishing a couple of spots, but if the fish aren't biting we head to Eagle Nest or Red River. So we most likely wouldn't stop at all in the Canyon or Eagle Nest if we had to pay \$10 day fee at both places, but \$5 at both stops then maybe, but with an annual pass most likely we would stop both places. But to spend \$10 to find out if the fish are biting, no thanks...I would find somewhere else to go fishing.

I am happy to answer any questions you have about my comments. I also want to thank you for holding your Public meeting here in Tucumcari. Sometimes we feel like we get left out of things that happen in Santa Fe, so we truly appreciate you taking the time to come and listen to our voices and consider our input.

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