

From: [Lanse KLEAVELAND](#)
To: [Langenegger, Jared, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment Camping Passes for Non Residents
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 9:03:50 AM

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Jared,

Posting a comment on the announcement of fee increases and eliminating the annual camping passes.

I lived in Santa Fe for about fifteen years and discovered the great parks of New Mexico during that time.

Presently, I am a full-time "life on the road camper" and have utilized the annual park pass for at least ten years. In that time, I have spent thousands of dollars in New Mexico for everything from food, healthcare, fishing licenses, auto service, RV service, camping supplies, clothes, and sundries in communities all over New Mexico. I believe this is true for every non-resident camper. The economic impact of non-resident campers on the smaller communities where many of the campgrounds are located cannot be under-estimated. Small businesses of all stripes reap the benefits of these non-resident campers. This would be especially true in the winter months, when snow-birds move south for the winter and spend their dollars wherever they land.

With the implementation of the proposed fee structures and the elimination of the park pass for non-residents, I and I believe many other non-resident campers will no longer have a compelling reason to camp in New Mexico, which might be your intent. Fair enough.

Most non-resident campers are value consumers, who can choose to camp in Texas, Arizona, California or elsewhere depending on the perceived value. If the value propositions are equivalent between states the choice will no longer set New Mexico apart. I can no longer say to fellow travelers along the way that New Mexico has the best campground deal in America. The value of the word of mouth of happy campers is priceless. The current camping pass deal keeps bringing people to New Mexico. With its elimination, do the fee increases offset the total economic impact of the many travelers who spend their money in towns across New Mexico?

I come here because I love the state, the people, and like being here. But eliminating the park pass for non-residents and the subsequent fee structure makes it unaffordable to spend anything like the amount of time I now spend in New Mexico. The fee increase incentivizes me to look elsewhere, most like to boon-docking on BLM land throughout the west.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Lanse Kleaveland