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From: Linda Castor
To: emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments regarding eliminating yearly passes
Date:
Monday, February 19, 2024 5:45:10 PM
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Hello,
Following my retirement, I traveled full time in a fully contained RV and took advantage of the New Mexico yearly resident senior pass. What a financial blessing it was to have that assurance of affordable lodging. I often wondered why the cost wasn't higher, especially for the non-resident pass. Both types of passes would still be a bargain at twice the price for those traveling full time. I have since stopped traveling, and am no longer a New Mexico resident but I continue to be grateful for the days and nights spent in the parks across the state. I met fellow travels that I still keep in touch with and have many fond memories.

More recently, I am preparing for a move from Oklahoma to Arizona and am on a wait list for an apartment in Arizona to become available. My thought was to travel a bit again, maybe for 2 or 3 months before I'm able to move in to my new apartment, but a friend told me about the possible elimination of the annual pass. If you do that, traveling full time for 2 months becomes financially impossible. If the cost of an electric site remains at $\$ 14$ per night, then camping for 60 nights becomes an expense of $\$ 840$. The activity then becomes prohibitive for me, and probably for many more travelers.

I promote the idea of raising the cost of the yearly passes but not eliminating them. I also promote keeping the pass and raising the nightly fee for an electric site from $\$ 4$ to something that would raise revenue but not be cost prohibitive. Another thought would be to raise the fee for an electric site in relationship to the size of the camping unit, such as van or truck, Class B, Class C and Class A.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Linda Castor
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