

**From:** [Lora Federici](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed State Park fee increases  
**Date:** Monday, March 25, 2024 5:01:46 PM

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To whom it may concern:

The following is our response to the proposed fee increase for the New Mexico State Parks.

First, we agree with the \$20 basic camping fee increase. We also agree that annual camping passes should be eliminated. This is in line with fees across the country. That is the extent of our agreement.

Sewer fees-the reasoning behind free or inexpensive sewer dump fees is to protect our environment and public lands. By charging exorbitant fees to dump you are promoting and encouraging illegal dumping. The modern trend today is to provide easy access with little or no fees to legally dispose of sewage. Just check with local communities in New Mexico like Aztec which offers free sewer dumps at city hall to encourage legal dumping from users of public lands. This is an environmental issue NOT a money making one.

The increase in electric fees and the institution of fees for water is not only exorbitant but I don't know where you came up with this. You state that these increases are based on surrounding states. I hope you did not consider the fees that Texas charge. Texas does not have a state income tax for residents. As a result, they gouge the regular residents with extremely high user fees for things such as park fees, vehicle and RV registrations, boat titling and registrations and property and sales taxes. We have been residents of NM our entire lives and continue to pay state and property taxes. We stay two months in Arizona, so I am familiar with their fee structure. Nowhere that we visited charge \$10 for water or \$10 for electricity. We stay at a private RV park with a prime remote location. Our site is a premium site that is 40' by 80' with free Wi-Fi and cable with sewer and water. The fee is \$450 per month. Electric is metered and we average \$75 per month. The total fee comes to \$17.50 per day. We do not stay in state parks in Arizona because of stay limits but we do hike and explore as day users AND they charge everyone for day use. That brings us to our last comment-the elimination of day use for residents. Day use either by residents or non-residents is the most labor-intensive activity in our parks. Day users overwhelm the trash, toilets and litter in our parks. A large portion of the law enforcement efforts in the parks is directly related to day-use form residents. Was this decision added to stop criticism of the fee increase by local residents?

In conclusion, we are 66-year and 72-year residents of the state of New Mexico and NOWHERE in your fee structure do we see any break for seniors! Even the NM Game and Fish Dept. which has made hunting and fishing an elitist sport gives seniors a big break on license fees. We are the group of residents who still pay state income and property taxes that go to support our public lands and parks. We suggest that a 50% discount for residents would be appropriate. Considering your elimination of annual passes this would mean a 100% increase in remote camping fees (\$10 vs. \$0) and for an electric hookup with water would be a five fold increase (\$20 vs. \$4).

Thank you, Lora and Larry Federici  
Aztec, NM

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