

From: [Mark Karagas](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Cc: [Mark Karagas](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] State Parks Fee Increase Comments
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 5:05:16 AM

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Hi, I have read the proposed fee increase and changes that are proposed. I don't have a boat, so I won't comment on those fees but I do camp and visit for a day as well.

I support the idea of removing the annual camping pass. I think that too many out-of-state residents have taken advantage of that fee structure to use our parks as an inexpensive option for housing themselves. I have seen videos on YouTube telling viewers about how the NM State Parks are one of the best ways to live on the cheap. They even talk about the strategy of park hopping to avoid staying at one park too long. Although I recognize the need for affordable housing, our state parks were created for recreation, not long term housing. Regarding the proposed increases to the camping fees, I would support a substantial increase for out of state visitors but not for residents as they are usually less financially able to absorb such an increase.

One way to help camping residents save some money is to find a less expensive reservation website than <https://newmexicostateparks.reserveamerica.com/>. \$4 fees per reservation is outrageous for what little service this website provides and as far as I know, that fee doesn't go to the parks.

Also, many seniors do not have the skillset to navigate the web to make reservations. What are they supposed to do if they would like to camp at one of the parks?

As for day use fees, I agree that state residents should be able to access the parks for free and out-of-state residents should continue to pay and residents get free day use of the parks. But, I would support the continued day use charges for both residents and non-residents if some of that money were to be used to enhance/create more day use areas for picnicking, etc.

I saw one [comment](#) sent by a resident whose email was posted online. I agree that the parks should tap into the recreational marijuana tax revenue to augment state park expenses.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback for the fee changes proposal,

Mark Karagas
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