

From: [Marlin Spike](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] A few social media comments of proposed fee increase.
Date: Monday, February 26, 2024 12:38:28 PM

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RE: State Parks fee increase.

Seniors & disabled were not accorded any relief. Is this public good? Shame to the authors, New Mexico State Parks executives.

We heavily use our annual pass and I just finally got the senior discount. Seriously troubled about even considering ending the pass. There are so many seniors and veterans who practically live on the pass - the reservation system attacked them already and now this is a possibility? And \$20 a night is far too expensive for a rustic site.

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I have several thoughts and will be seeking answers to them through the meetings.

Who did this study? They say parks employees with over 200 years parks experience. That leads me to believe a marketing company or some other out of state interest is proposing things that has "worked" in other states like California and Texas.

Raising primitive camping to \$20 a night and removing the annual camping pass is too much. We live in rural NM. This means for many they go and camp where they live for an affordable rate and many don't use anything but the dirt they are camped on. I think \$12 a night for camping is fair and not scraping the annual camping pass. I camped roughly 30 days last year that will cost me \$600 now without an annual camping pass that's just nuts!

Annual day passes should also not be scrapped, maybe raise the price. How are they going to enforce what people are from NM? If it's at the gate we will see lines all day checking ID's. With my annual pass I use the pass lane and drive right in. Same goes for people launching boats. Are they going to add an attendant at the ramp taking payments?

I also want to know how this will all be managed with money left over to allow park improvements. My guess is that this will create part time jobs with no benefits or more seasonal jobs with little impact to the bottom line for state parks. How will this revenue be divided up among the parks?

The other big concern I have is as we are being nickel and dime'd how will the money be spent and managed. We have seen time and time again tax money just disappearing or being paid to a company and work never being completed.

I just feel like our entire economy is a giant money grab right now with no real improvements being made. We are taxed on wages then taxed again when we spend it.

Taxed on money we earn on investments on money that was taxed before it was used. When we don't get any say in how the money is spent. Let's stop the state for taking more without a plan on how to protect it.

Another Thing Santa Fe Doesn't Understand is.. Veterans, No Less Live Within The System. Traveling around the state parks I met Veterans, (even) Disabled Veterans who were just making it.. we have a governor who wants N.M. to be more like California. This is wrong all around. Tell Santa Fe NO NEW FEES. You can thank covid.. The parks were empty for almost a year showing them the cost BOTH Full and Empty.

I agree are our senior and disabled citizens just supposed to stay in the house ? Plus I noticed there aren't any considerations for veterans either. In a lot of states state and federal recreation is free to veterans disabled or otherwise. We need to stop pandering to the tourists. We need to build a thriving community that people naturally want to come to like they used to.

These legislators need to understand the effect these changes will have on the citizens of New Mexico that depend on the state park passes for seniors, disabled and veterans for their basic needs for living like an affordable and safe place to park that provides utilities, showers and often has nearby access to grocery stores and a pharmacy. It's difficult enough to have to move every 14 days but taking away the annual passes will render them completely homeless and nowhere to go. Please reconsider keeping the annual passes and keeping the fee schedule as is. There are enough homeless people living on the streets without adding to the problem.