

From: [Maura Ciccarelli](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Cc: [Langenegger, Jared, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I oppose recommendations in the New Mexico State Parks Fees Study
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 5:48:36 PM

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Please record that my husband and I, both New Mexico Residents, OPPOSE the recommendations in the New Mexico State Parks Fees Study. (<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/park-plans/>)

In particular:

1. **I OPPOSE eliminating Annual Camping Passes.** This would cause undue burden on middle and lower income New Mexico residents by requiring them to pay higher camping fees. In particular, this would mean only those who have a higher income could afford regular camping stays at the New Mexico State Parks.
2. **I OPPOSE raising State Park camping and utility fees as proposed.** This would make it impossible for Seniors, the Disabled, and low income families to enjoy an affordable camping vacation. The report notes: "New Mexico has the 3rd highest poverty rate in the Nation with 16.8% of our citizens living in poverty. Many citizens can't enjoy public recreation even at minimal costs." Would \$40 a night (\$20 for a developed site plus \$10 for water and \$10 for electricity) really be considered an "affordable" amount for campers? That's an additional \$26 per night for campers.

Before we became New Mexico Residents, my husband and I (seniors) were full-time travelers. When we discovered New Mexico State Parks AND WERE ABLE TO SPEND QUALITY TIME HERE, we fell in love with the state and stayed here most winters. We settled at a local RV park for the first year of the Pandemic. We also did all our shopping locally, contributing substantially to the area economy. I shudder to think what reducing the number of campers would do to our local town's economy here in Truth or Consequences, which has been hit hard in recent years.

In short, I oppose the proposals because they would hurt middle and lower income people, seniors, and the disabled, they would harm the local business economies that depend on campers who shop and seek entertainment, and the changes would send the message that New Mexico only wants campers who can afford higher rates. That's not in the spirit of the State Park system. I believe better solutions can be found that would not impact so many so negatively.

Kindly record our NO vote for the proposals. Thank you for your time.

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