

From: [Michael and Jolene Petrowski](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#); [Langenegger, Jared, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Mexico State Parks Fees Study comments
Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 8:49:06 PM

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Jared Langenegger
NM State Parks Division
Field Operations Bureau Chief
Mr. Langenegger,

I have reviewed both the study and recommendations. I do have a few comments.

- Charging the same price for a primitive and developed campsite does not make sense. Although all visitors have access to various amenities including improved roads, solid waste service, water service, restroom facilities, and public safety officers, the campsites themselves do not have the same amenities. The tiered pricing should remain. For example, Hotels do not charge the same rate for a standard hotel room and suite, even though guest have access to the same amenities (pool, fitness room, restaurant, etc.).
- With the increased camping fee, there should be a concerted effort (a real commitment) to improve the campgrounds. Some campsites, such as Oliver Lee Memorial Park, Eagle Nest Lake, do have very nice campsites. Others such as Santa Rosa Lake, Navajo Lake seem run-down and stuck in the 1950's. They cannot accommodate today's size RV's and some don't even have level sites. When comparing New Mexico State Park campgrounds to the surrounding states, the study should also look at the quality of the campground. For example, many of the Texas, Colorado, Arizona, and Utah State Park campgrounds are excellent, with modern amenities, and warrant the higher cost. It's like comparing apples and oranges. You don't pay the same price at the grocery store even though they are both fruit. And some grocery stores have better fruit that is worth the higher price.
- The use of the dump station should be free (included) for those who have camping reservations. Surrounding states do not charge a dump fee for those camping. However, I do agree that a fee should be charged for anyone not having a reservation (similar to the cost to use other dump stations throughout the state charge, E.g. Loves gas stations). Caballo Lake State Park is right off of I-25 and I have stopped there only to use the dump station. It makes sense that I should pay to use it in this situation.
- The study and recommendations are not clear if a non-resident would have to pay a daily day use fee *in addition to* the daily camping fee. Based on study recommending that out-of-state users paying their fair share, it would make sense that non-residents would pay their fair share to use all facilities.
- You should retain the veteran's 3-nights of free camping. [Veterans-Application2018.pdf \(nm.gov\)](#)
- You should consider a senior's camping discount. I would suggest a 50% discount. This would retain the intent of the \$100.00 annual camping pass for resident seniors as compared to the \$180.00 annual resident pass.

- I would like to see the annual camping pass retained. For those of us who recreationally camp it is a great deal if you camp enough days in a year. I agree with the study that there are some who abuse the annual camping pass as a low-cost rent option. There should be some way to manage the abuse without penalizing state residents to camp for recreation. Maybe instead of an annual pass, create a discount program where you get 50% off of camping fees for a pre-determined cost, or the 7th night is free when you stay a week, or you get a free night for every 10 nights camping.
 - Question: If someone buys an annual pass before the fee increase; will it still be good for 12 months?
- There also should be a method to identify those who reserve camping sites and then do not show up. If a reserved site is not occupied within a given time, the reservation should be canceled and made available to other campers.
- I do not have any comments on the boating fees, as I am not a boater.

Thank you for providing New Mexico citizens an opportunity to comment.

Michael Petrowski

Santa Fe