

From: [Michael and Cheryl Meier](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments](#), [EMNRD](#)
Subject: EXTERNAL] Elimination of NM State Park Annual fee
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 4:30:03 PM

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Please reconsider discontinuing the Annual Day Use permits because the numbers below from the Executive Summary do not support removing the Annual Day Pass.

FEE TYPE	CURRENT COST	PROPOSED COST	REVENUE IMPACT
Day Use (Resident)	\$5.00 per vehicle	Free for Residents	-\$862,500
Day Use (Non-resident)	\$5.00 per vehicle	\$10.00 per vehicle	+\$575,000 ¹
Primitive Camping	\$8.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle	+\$1,728,000
Developed Camping	\$10.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle	+\$2,048,000
Utilities (water, electric, sewer)	\$4.00 per day	\$10.00 per day	+\$700,000
Dump Station Fee	Free	\$10.00 per use	+\$250,000
Annual Day-Use Pass	\$40	Eliminate	-\$295,400
Annual Camping Pass	\$100-\$225	Eliminate	-\$457,000
Living Desert Entrance Fee	\$0.50 - \$5.00	\$1.00 - \$10.00	+\$107,253

The current proposal to make Resident Day Use FREE, Non-Resident Day Use DOUBLED, and Annual Day Use Pass ELIMINATED yields a far greater negative impact.

And here's the math using numbers from the Executive Summary:

Day Use (Resident) + Day Use (Non-Resident) + Annual Day Use Pass = Ultimate Negative Impact on Day Use Fees

$$-\$862,500 + \$575,000 + -\$295,400 = -\$582,900$$

We are not opposed to increasing fees to cover costs and remain competitive with neighboring states. But as shown above, these proposed changes for Day Use Fees will leave the NM State Parks further in the **RED**.

We have owned property in NM for more than 25 years. And now our children and grandchildren are contributing to the NM economy. We have contributed to the State of New Mexico's well-being through property taxes, retail purchases, utility improvements, fishing licenses, hunting licenses, and many other sources. As non-resident property owners contributing to the NM economy, it is offensive to not be able to benefit from the resident "freebies." However, we accept that as part of our decision of where we must designate our primary residency.

Furthermore, there is a convenience to having the Annual Day Use Pass. And yes, we do appreciate the hang tag because we take different vehicles depending on the trip. Sometimes it's totally the small economy vehicle for our 10 hour drive. Other times it's the big farm truck with a goose-neck trailer to haul the tractor or the ATVs. But convenience is not the issue.

In closing, the issue with no longer offering the Annual Day Use Passes is that the numbers do NOT support ANY advantage with this method of correction. And, is in fact detrimental to the bottom line.

So again, we ask that you *please reconsider* your proposal to eliminate the Annual Day Use Fee for NM State Parks.

Sincerely,

Michael and Cheryl Meier

Salina, KS and Red River, NM