

From: [PATRICIA and RODNEY GUENTHER](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The New Mexico State Parks Division proposed changes to fees and park rules
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 3:57:17 PM

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We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with our views and comments on the proposed changes to NM State Park fee increases. We sincerely hope it is not too late for this submission.

Camping and the outdoors provide less expensive options for families of all incomes. Our beautiful state has much to offer in the outdoors. In our family, particularly, camping, hunting and fishing provide growth from childhood into adulthood and the senior years. These experiences provide a right-of-passage for families as a group and as individuals while skills improve and shared memories abound. The outdoors are a part of our upbringing and development and necessary regardless of your pocketbook. We understand that it takes funds to protect and preserve the campsites and areas but an increase that doubles the fees is too excessive. There are many who travel here for our outdoor experiences and perhaps they can afford a double increase but the families who live here and raise their families here, would be too burdened by these increases. We know because we are them.

Back in the day, my mom took her five children she was raising on her own on road trips in a station wagon with a mattress from the house and a trunk full of food. This was camping to us as we joined other family members. As we grew our experiences changed but the specialness remained. We've passed it down the generations. My spouse's family were better off financially and owned campers. The specialness of the experiences was the same for them.

Now, with the cost of campers and RVs, plus double park fees, it becomes more of a challenge for families. Time off of work, increased food prices, fuel prices in addition to the parks fees, becomes too much to overcome for struggling families.

Increasing the fee for primitive camping from \$8 to \$20 is entirely too much. How about a staggered table starting at \$10 or \$12 for a couple of years instead? Then cap the fee once you reach \$20. In addition, for developed camping from \$14 to \$20 with a new dump fee of \$10 (no longer free), we do not believe we will be able to go on six-eight camping trips a year as is our usual practice. It will be too expensive for us now. Some of the dump sites are not even on a level ground or sloping in the better direction for our camper, like at Sugarite Canyon State Park. If we pay to dump, it should be leveled for a fully successful dump.

Many seniors on fixed incomes utilize these types of trips which fit their budget better. We would prefer that you keep the annual day pass and camping pass on a yearly payment plan if possible.

Our beautiful Land of Enchantment belongs to everyone and everyone, regardless of income, should be allowed the opportunity to enjoy it.

Please consider lower increases. Thank you for allowing us to comment.

Patsy and Rodney Guenther

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