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To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] comments on Park Fees
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 11:06:14 AM

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I am a senior citizen with a RV camper and I purchase a NM State Parks Pass each year.

I have been very concerned that our state parks are filled with out of state snowbirds who have figured out how to stay two weeks and move to another site or park for two weeks and stay here for MONTHS, taking up our park campsites and causing the NM residents to not be able to get a campsite with electricity.

The state park system was designed for NM residents to be able to take a nice vacation at the lake or other park but it was NEVER intended to become a full time place for only \$4 per night for out of state campers to stay for long extended periods of time.

I camp at many other state parks around the United States and most of them have delt with this problem by not allowing the out of state people the same privileges as in state taxpaying residents. Most states charge out of state nonresidents \$25 per night for a site with electricity. That eliminates the "full time" people who move every two weeks to another state park location. Wyoming allows in state residents to book a campsite 90 days in advance but only allows out of state users a much shorter booking window. The result is that the in state residents have a chance to book a vacation first.

As an in state resident I do pay a lot of income tax and support the NM state parks budget with my taxes. It is nice to get a discount or benefit over the out of state nonresidents. But the most frustrating thing is not being able to find a space for a vacation when the long term people are using it for a discount mobile home park. Most of them don't boat or fish or hike or use the parks for recreation, they are just looking for a cheap place to live. I know this for a fact because I have visited with many of them and they have told me so.

Yes, It is time to address this issue and I am glad you gave me the opportunity to give some input.

Thank you
Paul Curry
Las Cruces

