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To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] State Park Changes
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February 25, 2024

State of New Mexico Parks Division

Hello, I would just like to voice my opinions about the upcoming changes to the State Parks. I am disappointed that the meetings to voice opinions are going to be held in the southern part of NM, I live in Raton so unable to attend. I hope that you take my suggestions seriously and that my voice is heard.

I would first like to say that I am sadden to hear that there will no longer be Annual Camping passes and Day use passes. I agree that they needed a price increase and have needed that increase for years! But because that was not done sooner, we as taxpayers of NM are going to pay the additional costs both to go camping and in taxes! Years ago, the state wanted to do away with the annual passes and many citizens fought to keep them but to not sell them to out of state citizens and now we see where that has gotten the state. Many people live in their RVs year-round up north in the summer and south in the winter here in NM for \$100-\$300 using the annual pass – that is a disgrace! I would like the state to still offer the Annual Pass or Camping pass with the following stipulations.

1. Increase price \$500 for NM seniors and \$600 for NM residents only.
 - a. Must have a NM driver's license and vehicle/trailer/RV must be registered in NM (we pay taxes here). This will also help in people sharing the Annual pass.
 - b. NM residents will still need to pay for electricity nightly and a fee to use water. I do not know how you will monitor to charge for dumping at the parks unless you put in pay station at all the dumping stations in the parks (which is going to cost the state more money).
 - c. As stated earlier, I am a lifetime camper as I am in the campground, I see more out of state campers than New Mexico and that is because of the Annual Passes being so cheap. Out of State will still come to our parks paying the fees of an overnight stay with the water/electricity/dump fees.
2. Possibly the pass will only include so many days of camping (possibly 75 days) this is help generate more money for NM and reduce the living year-round at the parks.
3. The pass will also include day use no matter how many days it is used. That will include fishing, hiking, and kayaking. If a NM resident has a boat possibly a separate pass to use the boat in NM waters. They will need to have the boat inspected then purchase a boat pass for the year.
 - a. Out of state will pay a daily fee to use both the parks and boats.

I would also like to voice my concerns on doing away with the reservations.

1. NM is a big state and to drive 400 miles and not have a place to stay is horrible.
2. Why could not the parks be $\frac{3}{4}$ reservations and $\frac{1}{4}$ walkup. Limiting the walkup sites to 7-day max.
 - a. Charging a reservation fee is generating money. If the passes were keyed into a computer system all information generated to the park should tell when the pass was purchased and vehicle should be present to easily be verified by a camp host. If information does not match the vehicle/RV then a Ranger should be called in. Have information in the system will not allow a reservation if expired or out of days.
 - b. Not selling camping pass to out of state or limiting the time in which a camping pass can be used should shorten the time in which lifers can stay at a park. Ultimately opening more sites.
 - c. NM should have the reservation system within the state. Not pay a company out of state to help generate money.

In conclusion I hate to see the changes NM is making in the State Parks. I hope my voice is heard and considered helpful. I do not want to see nobody coming to our parks, they really are beautiful! I am now retired and on a fixed income, I will not be able to afford \$1500 for only 75 days not including other fees. I do not camp in Colorado because of what they charge. I also will not pay \$5.00 a day to ride my kayak! Its too bad NM waited so long to make changes!

Thank you, Rene Ortiz