From: <u>Rita DiDomenico</u>

To: <u>emnrd-parkscomments</u>, <u>EMNRD</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Mexico state park fee study
Date: Saturday, February 24, 2024 10:42:45 PM

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We have camped in New Mexico state parks for over fifty years. At one time a group of use got together and sent a petition with a lot of signatures on it stating at the time that the annual park pass was \$50.00 for senior resident witch we thought was too cheap, at that time you raised the state pass to \$100.00, for seniors. We have bought the state park pass every year for 50 years. For the past few years every time when I would go and buy the yearly park pass I told the state park ranger this is too cheap. I even called Santa Fe and talked to some one about this We are all for you going up on your prices and realize that the parks need the money to keep this up. But we are not for you getting rid of the annual pass I agree they need to be higher I have said they need to be up 1 to 2 hundred dollars each for senior and resident. I do not believe the non resident should be able to get a annual pass. We in New Mexico pay taxes here they do not. I think they should have to show a drivers license and utility bill to prove they live in the state. I have heard that people pass the passes around. I think if your camp host or the rangers check closer and make sure the pass is on the vehicle it is suppost to be on and if its not they can take the pass away from them it would stop a lot of this stuff. It seems to me a lot of this could be stopped with the way computers are now. If some one is cheating on the park pass no matter what park they go to buy this at it should pop up on the computer and say this license plate or name has already been used and they would get caught doing this stuff. Computers can do so much and there is no since in a lot of this stuff going on. we have watch full timers come and park and stay and when there time is up there friend will put something in the spot and there friends sticker on they leave and the friend come and stays 2 weeks and this goes back and forth makes it hard to find a spot. That is a one reason I am not for getting rid of the reservation with out a reservation it makes it really hard to go a long way and then when you get there you can't find a spot. We drive for 7 hours to go to the San Juan River that is a very busy place with out the reservation we wouldn't be able to go there. That's a long way to travel and not have a place to camp and no where to go but to a rv park. I heard some people say I don't have computer to make a reservation I always say then call on the phone they will help you and it is very easy to make. There is no excuse to not be able to make a reservation it's very easy and I am 76 years old, everyone can make a phone call. If you feel you have to get rid of reservations then please just get rid of some of them so we still can travel long way and have a place to stay in the parks. My husband and I love to camp and in the summer is the only time we go so please consider to keep the reservation or at least keep part of them for us who love our state parks and want to continue to enjoy them. If you would like to talk to me I am putting my phone # and call and maybe I have some ideas that will help.

Thanks for your time reading this and please consider what I have said I am sure there is other people that fell the same way. rita