

From: [sleam](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: New Mexico State Parks Fees Study
Date: Sunday, March 3, 2024 9:17:54 AM

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Hello,

I hope you're doing well. I am replying to the call for our thoughts on the fee changes. What really struck me was this line: "NM State Parks are decades behind surrounding states when it comes to our fees structure." This worries me. Why? Well, the surrounding states are MUCH wealthier than we are. We are the sixth poorest state in the US ([Poorest States 2024](#)). As you see from this link, the states next to us are considerably better off, which means that they can afford to pay \$24 to camp for a night. We can't. Unless the NM focus is on welcoming other states more than our own, the proposed changes will hurt us.

My thoughts then, or suggestions include

- Keep the day fees but increase slightly and do so each year as needed
- Keep the annual pass (I use them! so do my friends).
- Adjust camping fees but no more than 20%

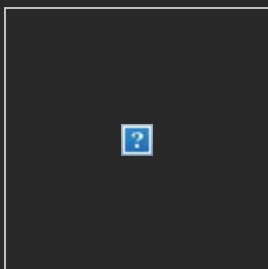
I wonder if you can keep the annual pass for NM residents only and perhaps make it an income dependent option. Yes, you can trust us. Most people would do the right thing even if you have some who lie about incomes, assume the best of your NM residents. Those of us, like me, who live under poverty level, still want to enjoy the state parks. Please don't take that away from us.

Thanks,
Sarah Leamy

Author of [STAY](#), [G'dog](#), and more. [Publisher](#), [Podcast Host](#) and Traveler

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: New Mexico State Parks <no-reply@parks.reserveamerica.com>
To: "revsleam@yahoo.com" <revsleam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 at 01:30:23 PM MST
Subject: New Mexico State Parks Fees Study



Proposed Fee Changes
New Mexico State Parks

Hello,

NM State Parks Division is reaching out to our loyal customers to provide you with important information regarding proposed changes to our fees structure and park rules.

State Parks has 35 locations in 25 of New Mexico's 33 counties. State Parks rely heavily on self-generated revenue through entrance and camping fees, concessions, and other related revenue streams to accomplish its mission of enhancing natural and cultural resources, providing first-class recreational and education facilities and opportunities, and promoting public safety to benefit and enrich the lives of more than five million visitors each year. State Park's current fees, which are set by rule, have not been updated in decades and have not kept pace with inflation. NM State Parks are decades behind surrounding states when it comes to our fees structure. Adjustments are necessary to better support park operations and maintain our beautiful landscapes with diverse natural and cultural resources for future generations.

To address these concerns, NM State Parks Division completed an extensive evaluation of our fees structure and compared our rates to surrounding states as well as considered the impacts of inflation. The principal objective of the Fees Study was to explore options to adjust fees to address that gap to both improve the agency's financial position while also enhancing the Division's mission to maintain affordable state park access for New Mexico citizens and visitors to our state. Based on the completed study, the NM State Parks Division has proposed several revisions to our rules.

Key recommendations from our Fees Study include:

- Elimination of day-use fees for New Mexico residents.
- Implementation of a non-resident day-use fee.
- Eliminating Annual Passes.
- Adjusting camping and utility fees.
- Adjusting boat registration and launching fees.
- Adjusting entrance fees at Living Desert Zoo and Gardens State Park and Smokey Bear Historical Park.

The NM State Parks Division is in the process of soliciting public input on our recommended rule revisions. We are holding informational meetings across the state to provide information on our recommendations to the public. We encourage you to review our recommendations and meeting schedule in full on our website at www.emnrd.nm.gov/spd/public-meetings/. To submit comments on our proposed

revisions, please email EMNRD-ParksComments@emnrd.nm.gov or mail your comments to EMNRD-State Parks Division, 1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505.

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