

From: [Stan Burnett](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed State Park Rates
Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 7:31:37 AM

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First off, I would like to say that it appears to me that the State of NM is trying to push this through without any or minimal input from the public. You would think that at a minimum an email would be sent to all Annual Camping Pass holders, of which I am one. Additionally I would expect to see notices posted at all state parks regarding this comment period and I have probably camped in half a dozen this winter and have not seen a single notice. There are lots of long expired notices, but nothing regarding this rate increase.

I am sorry that NM State Parks have not seen fit to raise their rates for so many years. As a camper, I appreciate the current low cost, but also recognize that it doesn't begin to cover the cost of operating the state park system. However, I am truly disappointed that the state feels it must raise rates so drastically at one time. It would be a lot more palatable to identify the problem and then come up with a tiered approach to get the rates to where you need them. I think over a 5 year period would be adequate.

The biggest change that I have a problem with is the elimination of the Annual Camping Pass (ACP). This is a great tool for individuals to pay up front for a discounted rate for camping and should be continued. I believe your revenue projections are overly optimistic as well. When you couple the elimination of the ACP along with the extreme nightly rate increase, I believe you will see a lot of campers opting for cheaper options such as National Forest, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), etc. Additionally if you approach \$40 a night for a campsite, I believe many people who are willing to pay that will opt to go to a private campground instead, one where the septic system and water system work.

I know I am just one person, but if you move ahead with the current rate proposal, I will not be camping at NM State Parks. I will be one of the individuals who will be using National Forest or BLM lands. I may swing by and use the dump station, if it is functional, for \$10 but I will not pay \$20 a night for a primitive site and an additional entrance fee. I certainly will not pay \$30 for an electric and water site.

I urge you to reconsider this rate increase proposal and take some additional proactive steps to truly get public input. As it currently stands, I am opposed to such a drastic increase, but agree that rates need to increase, just not so much at one time. I also would encourage you to seriously reevaluate the elimination of the Annual Camping Pass, as it allows frequent campers to receive a discount on their camping fees and eliminates the need for paying daily use fees. I also believe your increased income projections are extremely optimistic as I believe that if the current proposal is implemented, many campers, me included, will just move to cheaper alternatives and there are ALOT of cheaper alternatives on public lands throughout New Mexico.

I hope you reconsider this proposal.

Sincerely,

Stan Burnett