

From: [Steven Fletcher](#)
To: [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Park fees increased and effective 1 July2024 ?
Date: Thursday, February 22, 2024 10:26:06 PM

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My name is Steven Fletcher. I'm a senior that's retired from the military and I love to go Camping in New Mexico. I was just informed by a camper at Elephant Butte that there are changes in camping fees and permits. First off, why did I hear this from a fellow camper? Is this a big secret you were going to spring on everyone in July? Why wasn't everyone notified about the suggested changes or did I miss a notification somewhere?

I purposely buy an ACP every year to help alleviate high Camping costs so we can enjoy the new Mexico outdoors as a break from noisy neighbors and city Kaos. I can understand price increase to help with higher electrical costs or even dump site cost for help, but to take away the ACP from New Mexico residents isn't right for retired seniors who's only enjoyment is to enjoy The new Mexico outdoors. Non residents should not be entitled to any annual permits!

Raising primitive camping to 20.00 is crazy for camping in a an area that isn't maintained! Ten dollars for primitive camping is a little better.

Not to mention, that we have to pay a 12.00 reservation fee for every camp site we go to. You are now about to charge, what it used to cost to spend a night in a hotel or motel before COVID, which is why so many decided to camp in the outdoors.

I'm not rich enough to accommodate your proposed changes for the amount of time we usually spend camping. It makes no sense to travel to and from any lake for only two days at your new rates. It costs me 200.00 in Diesel gas each trip, sometimes more on the lakes farther away. Then to add 12.00 reservation fee, 30.00 a night plus 10.00 dump fee plus trips to the local Walmart store or mom and pops store to buy fishing items and supplies- \$40 -\$50 dollars. That's \$382 for just two nights.

Did anyone even think that this just might make more Senior people homeless? We already have enough homeless individuals! Or does anybody really care anymore?

Guess now, I'll have to either go camping on a buddy's land, buy my own land in New Mexico or I'll just have to find a new hobby to enjoy.

I want to thank you and all the greedy people involved in this ridiculous price increase for ruining my only true enjoyment in New Mexico.