

**From:** [Ben & Yolanda Garcia](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Fee Changes  
**Date:** Monday, March 4, 2024 11:34:52 AM  
**Attachments:** [New Mexico State Parks.msg](#)  
[FW Yolanda Garcia more funding for state parks.msg](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Thank you for accepting our comments regarding the proposed fee changes you have in mind. We are very pleased that this is finally being addressed. We have been advocating for our state parks for quite some time.

We visit them often from March through October and beyond if the weather permits and know that they are badly understaffed, and that fact is do in no part to their actions. Excellent Rangers run our wonderful parks. Staffs are always friendly, courteous, and do their best with what they have, which isn't much at times. In our opinion, they have been terribly underfunded for quite some time, though we have received administrative rhetoric to the contrary in our correspondence back and forth. More funding is well overdue to increase park staff, to maintain, and expand our wonderful state parks that attract so many.

An example of difficulties they are having would be the dump station at Pancho Villa that was out of service when we were there last October, the start of the snowbird season. It still may be out of service because as we were informed, funding isn't available to remedy the problem. Pancho Villa attracts many snowbirds that depend on being able to have dump station facilities. They bring a great benefit to the community of Columbus, as they do throughout our state.

We would also suggest that instead of having your heavy maintenance crews dispatched out of Santa Fe that they should be located regionally. This would allow for quicker and better accessibility. This would better serve the parks.

We agree fees should change. However, we feel they SHOULD NOT be eliminated or lowered.

RECOMMENDATIONS: FEE TYPE	CURRENT COST	PROPOSED COST	REVENUE IMPACT
Day Use (Resident)	\$5.00 per vehicle	<b>REMAIN \$5 (staff still needs to clean up after them)</b>	-\$862,500
Day Use (Non-resident)	\$5.00 per vehicle	\$10.00 per vehicle	+\$575,0001
Primitive Camping	\$8.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle	+\$1,728,000
Developed Camping	\$10.00 per vehicle	\$20.00 per vehicle	+\$2,048,000
Utilities (water, electric, sewer)	\$4.00 per day	\$10.00 per day	+\$700,000
Dump Station Fee	Free	<b>\$10.00 per use</b>	+\$250,000

**(IS THIS FOR  
THOSE THAT  
ARE NOT  
STAYING AND  
ALREADY  
PAYING THE  
\$20 FEE? IF  
SO, YES.)**

Annual Day-Use Pass	\$40	Eliminate	-\$295,400
Annual Camping Pass	\$100-\$225	Eliminate	-\$457,000
Living Desert Entrance Fee	\$0.50 - \$5.00	\$1.00 - \$10.00	+\$107,253
Vessel Registration Fees	\$28.50 - \$66.00	\$75.00 - \$180.00	+\$1,525,601
Vessel Launch Fee (non-motorized)	Free	<b>\$10.00</b>	+\$100,0002

Thank you and please consider our suggestions. We love our state parks and as life-long residents of New Mexico who are retired, we have been privileged to visit them and stay for days at a time in the beauty that they provide.

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