

**From:** [deirdre earls](#)  
**To:** [emnrd-parkscomments, EMNRD](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed New Camping Fees  
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Greetings and thank you for your work with NMSP.

I have been camping my entire life in NM state parks. I cherish them and spent several summers volunteering at Hyde Park. I have homes in Austin, TX. But have found my health to benefit far away from Austin, in high and dry environments near hot springs, from NM to the Canadian border, depending upon season. So I have had an annual camping pass for about ten years. And winters have been in southern NM State Parks. Like so many other people from all over the USA and Canada.

NM's economy is defined and dependent upon tourism, especially southern NM. The proposed fee changes to camping will result in a dramatic drop in winter visitors who remain in southern NM for 3-6 months. Struggling local economies and businesses in Deming, T or C, Elephant Butte, Hatch, and all the little towns like Hillsboro, depend upon winter traffic from the nearby state parks. Vets and people on fixed income depend upon winter camping in NM state parks. Virtually all of them will go elsewhere and take their business elsewhere, probably to TX where for the same price the parks offer a lot more local activities, or to AZ where free, off grid camping is abundant.

Again I appreciate NM and its state parks tremendously. But because your proposed fees will drive away the bulk of your traffic, it seems inevitable that your revenue will fall and also make it even harder for local businesses to survive. Everywhere I go in NM businesses are boarded up since the governor locked down NM during Covid. When the NM governor shut down NM, I went to wide open CO, WY, ID, MT. Like millions of others, the NM lockdowns resulted in my developing new favorite places to go that are outside of NM. And since then I have not spent another summer in NM.

Thank you,  
Deirdre Earls, RD