

July 20, 2024

New Mexico State Parks Division
ATTN: Jared Langenegger, Bureau Chief
1220 South Saint Francis Drive
Santa Fe, NM 87505

We met with you during our recent visit to Navajo State Park.
You presented the changes to the original survey done in Spring, 2024.

Comments:

1. Annual Camping Pass Increase is in line with inflation.
2. The rate increase for electricity is 2.5 TIMES more than current rate and exceeds what a normal RV camper would use. Recommend reducing the proposed cost from \$10 to \$6/per night to keep up with inflation.
3. State Parks have NEVER charged for water; in part due to restrictions of available water. If EMNRD charges \$5 for water, these restrictions need to be removed. The cost of water has always been part of the daily camping fee.
4. In regards to increasing State Park fees to similar amount of other nearby out-of-state Parks; It is important to recognize that the NM State Parks are less desirable because:
 - a. Worn out infrastructure: bathroom facilities, roads, parking, level spots, and site maintenance.
 - b. General maintenance: eg.: routine cleaning of the ONE bathroom available at Navajo Lake (second bathroom closed for many years).
 - c. Most state parks are worn out and Capital funds are not being used to update individual sites or infrastructure.
 - d. Security is a major concern for many of the State Parks, there is no one present at the gate full time, or making rounds through the park or especially after hours when the music blares and the people of talking loudly past midnight.
5. In summary, the changes to the cost of camping using the Annual Camping Pass will increase the daily rate from \$4.00 (Water, Electric Site) to \$15 to include water and electricity which is almost 4 TIMES as much as before. This amount exceeds a reasonable increase. Recommend that water water fee be included in the ACP site fee. Electricity increase is excessive and \$6 fee a reasonable amount.

Regards,

Thomas and Cathryne Richards

