**Arches and Canyonlands National Parks**

**Proposed Fee Increase**

**Questions and Answers**

1. **Why are the parks proposing to increase entrance fees?**

Proposed fee increases at Arches and Canyonlands are part of a broader National Park Service initiative to standardize fee rates in parks across the country that offer similar visitor services and experiences. The parks are now authorized to change their recreation fee rates to align with a new rate schedule, after they have actively engaged the public and stakeholders about proposed changes and impacts.

Entrance fees at Arches and Canyonlands increased in 2015, but remained lower than the system-wide rate schedule. This increase will align both parks with that schedule. Additional revenue will be used to provide both essential and enhanced visitor services including repair and maintenance of facilities, capital improvements, enhanced amenities, resource protection, and additional visitor programs and services.

Under the fee increase proposal, the cost of entering Arches or Canyonlands national parks would change to:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Entrance Fee** | **Current Fee** | **Proposed Fee** |
| Private Vehicle | $25/vehicle | $25/vehicle [NO CHANGE] |
| Individual  (including entry by foot or bicycle) | $10/individual | $12/individual |
| Motorcycle | $15/ motorcycle | $20/ motorcycle |

1. **I pay taxes; why do I still have to pay an entrance fee?**

National park lands are major financial investments. Although Congress expected general revenues to remain a major source of national park funding, it clearly considered recreation fees an important supplemental revenue source for the parks when it authorized parks to charge recreation fees through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. Park lands require and continue to need development for visitor access and accommodation, interpretation of park resources, and maintenance of facilities along with other improvements. The National Park Service’s Management Policies 2006, section 8.2.6.1, states *Visitors who use federal facilities and services for recreation may be required to pay a greater share of the cost of providing those opportunities than the population as a whole.*

1. **Is there a local’s pass available?**

The Southeast Utah Group (SEUG) annual pass allows the pass holder and those traveling with him/her in a single, private, non-commercial vehicle entrance to four local national parks: Arches and Canyonlands national parks and Hovenweep and Natural Bridges national monuments. A Southeast Utah Parks Pass costs $50.

1. **Are all National Parks proposing to increase their fees?**

Only 131 out of 401 national parks are authorized to collect fees. A number of parks recently increased their fees to align with the new system-wide rate schedule. Parks may not increase their fees without approval by the National Park Service Director, after first conducting careful analysis, proposing changes through a public engagement process, and evaluating public comments.

1. **If approved, when would these fees to go into effect?**

At this time Arches and Canyonlands are proposing that these fee changes would go into effect as early as January 1, 2018, depending on public comments and operational requirements for implementing any change.

1. **What projects do my fees pay for?**

Both Arches and Canyonlands are 80% parks, which means that 80% of fees collected at each park remain at the park to fund projects for visitor enhancement. Parks that do not collect any fees receive the remaining 20% of fees to fund needed visitor-related projects in their parks.

The recent parking lot expansion at Arches’ popular Wolfe Ranch/Delicate Arch trailhead was completed using fee money. Additional revenue raised by this fee increase could be used to connect the existing Moab Canyon bike path to Arches Visitor Center.

Projects recently completed at Canyonlands using fee revenues include replacement of the photovoltaic system at the Hans Flat ranger station and enhancement of backcountry river campsites, including the reduction of fire risk around them, by removal of exotic invasive tamarisk. Increased revenue would help fund new exhibits at the Island in the Sky Visitor Center and rehabilitate the Gooseberry Trail.

**The public comment period is open until September 1, 2017. You may submit comments on-line at:**

[**http://parkplanning.nps.gov/arch\_fee\_increase**](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/arch_fee_increase)**\_2018**

[**http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cany\_fee\_increase**](http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cany_fee_increase)**\_2018**

**Written comments may also be submitted in the space below. Please drop comments off at the park’s Visitor Center’s or Entrance Station locations or Headquarters building in Moab at 2282 S.W. Resource Blvd. Or mail to: Superintendent, Attn: Fee Increase, National Park Service, 2282 S.W. Resource Blvd, Moab UT.**

**PROPOSED FEE INCREASE COMMENT:**