

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Bryce Canyon National Park P.O. Box 640201 Bryce, Utah 84764 435-834-5322 www.nps.gov/brca

December 3, 2014 For Immediate Release Kathleen Gonder (435) 834-4741 15-03

Bryce Canyon Proposes Recreational Fee Increases Public Comments due January 2

Bryce Canyon, UT – Bryce Canyon National Park is seeking public input on a proposal to increase the park's entrance and camping fees. If approved, the changes would take effect in May 2015.

This proposal is part of a larger National Park Service (NPS) effort underway across the nation. Beginning in 2015, parks are authorized to change recreation fees to align with the NPS's new standard entrance-fee schedule, which was last updated in 2006.

Bryce Canyon is proposing to increase the entrance fee for single, private vehicles from \$25 to \$30 and charge motorcycles a flat \$25 fee instead of the former \$12 per rider, both valid for 7 days. Those traveling by foot, bicycle or ski would be charged \$15 and the annual Bryce Canyon pass would increase \$5 to \$35. The park is also proposing to increase the flat rate of \$15 per frontcountry campsite (regardless of size) to \$20 for tent sites and \$30 for recreational vehicles in an effort to better align its prices with those of campsites outside of the park. Overnight backcountry campers would be charged a flat rate of \$5 per person per trip.

Over 80% of fee revenues are reinvested directly back into Bryce Canyon National Park. Recently funded projects include new comfort stations in both of the park's campgrounds, new museum exhibits, trail rehabilitation projects, and operation of the park's popular visitor shuttle bus system.

Future revenues from the proposed fee increases will be used to ensure the long-term solvency of the visitor shuttle bus and support and enhance other visitor services including maintenance of park facilities, additional upgrades to campgrounds, restoration of historic buildings and landscapes, and additional park interpretive and educational programs.

National park units are strong economic engines for Utah. In 2013, almost 9,000,000 visitors to the National Parks in Utah contributed \$596.5 million to the state's economy and supported 9,069 jobs related to tourism.

National park entrance fees are not charged to persons under 16 years of age or to holders of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes — Annual (good for 1 year), Senior (lifetime for U.S. residents 62+ years), Military (free annually), Access (free for permanently disabled) and Volunteer (free annually).

Comments will be accepted online through January 2, 2015 at <u>www.parkplanning.nps.gov</u>; search "Bryce Canyon Proposed Entrance and Campground Fee Modifications." Written comments may be mailed to Superintendent, Bryce Canyon National Park, Attn: Fee Proposal, PO Box 640201, Bryce Canyon Visitor Center, Highway 63, Building 1, Bryce, UT 84764

Questions should be addressed to Wade Vagias, Interim Superintendent, Bryce Canyon National Park, at (435) 834-4700.