



Chiricahua National Monument
U.S. Department of the Interior

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CHIRICAHUA National Monument News Release

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Chiricahua National Monument Proposes Camping Fee Increase

WILLCOX, AZ – Chiricahua National Monument is considering a possible fee increase at Bonita Creek Campground in 2017. The current camping fee is \$12 per night or \$6 per night for persons with a Senior, Golden Age, Access, or Golden Access pass. Entrance fees are not charged at Chiricahua National Monument. The last increase of the camping fee was in 2002.

“We are committed to keeping camping at the park affordable but we also want to provide visitors with the best possible experience,” said Chiricahua National Monument Superintendent Allen Etheridge. “The money from camping fees is used to maintain and improve camping facilities, and provide visitor services.” Past projects that have been accomplished with fee money include tent pad improvements, new bear-proof food storage boxes and picnic tables in the campground. Funding from camping fees has also contributed to trail improvements on the Hailstone and Sugarloaf Trails. Additional revenue raised by a fee increase would help provide replacement of damaged and outdated interpretive wayside panels and additional trail maintenance projects.

Chiricahua National Monument is a strong economic engine for the surrounding area. In 2016, more than 51,300 park visitors contributed \$3,000,000 benefit to the local economy and supported 40 jobs related to tourism.

A public meeting will take place at Willcox’s Elsie S. Hogan Community Library, 100 North Curtis Avenue, Willcox, AZ from 4:00-6:00 pm on Monday, June 19th and will include a public comment session. Another public meeting will be at Coronado National Memorial Visitor Center, 4101 E. Montezuma Canyon Road, Hereford, AZ, from 4:00 -6:00 pm on Wednesday, June 21st.

Comments can be submitted in writing to the park address above, by telephone at 520-824-3560 x9302, or through the Planning Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Following the public comment period, feedback will determine how, or if, a fee increase would be implemented.