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Flagstaff Area National Monuments News Release

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Walnut Canyon National Monument Fee Will Increase February 1, 2018

FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA – Flagstaff Area National Monuments will change its entrance fee rate for Walnut Canyon National Monument to align with the National Park Service rate schedule. **The new fee will increase the cost of per person entry at Walnut Canyon to \$10 for a 7-day pass, beginning February 1, 2018.** Until that date, the per person entry is \$8 for a 7-day pass. The current entrance fee for Sunset Crater Volcano and Wupatki National Monuments will not change, as those fees are already consistent with the National Park Service fee rate schedule.

Entrance fees are not charged to persons under 16 years of age or holders of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Annual, Senior, Access, Military, or Volunteer Passes. These passes may be obtained at the monuments. Frequent visitors to Walnut Canyon, Sunset Crater Volcano and Wupatki National Monuments may want to purchase an annual pass for \$40, which provides unlimited visits for one year from the date of purchase.

“We are committed to keeping Walnut Canyon affordable but we also want to provide visitors with the best possible experience,” said Flagstaff Area National Monuments Superintendent Kayci Cook Collins. “We use the money from entrance fees to maintain, repair and improve our facilities, enhance visitor services and protect and preserve park resources.”

The additional revenue from the fee increase will be used to restore and rehabilitate monument facilities, – with particular focus on reducing the deferred maintenance backlog - enhance visitor services, and increase resource protection. Projects that have been started and/or completed with fee revenue over the past two years include: habitat restoration on the canyon rim near historic Ranger Cabin, preservation treatments to improve visitor safety at archeological sites, and to repair and replace trail exhibits. Revenue generated from the fee increase will be used to make repairs to

Walnut Canyon's trails (retaining walls and trail surfaces) and the visitor center, and to conduct preservation treatments on archeological sites visited by the public.

Walnut Canyon is a strong economic engine for the Flagstaff area. In 2016, more than 152,000 visitors to Walnut Canyon spent \$8.9 million in communities near the monuments. This spending supported 130 jobs in the local area related to tourism.

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