

NON-COMMERICAL RIVER PERMIT COST RECOVERY RATE CHANGE 2025

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Why is the National Park Service proposing such a significant increase in river trip costs?**
 - a. Non-commercial river charges have not changed in 26 years.
 - b. The level of management required to meet the standards set by the Colorado River Management Plan (CRMP) require a level of fiscal output that is unsustainable under the current charging structure.
 - c. Price points in various sectors between 1998 and 2025 have increased 3-fold. The costs to the government have also increased during the same time frame.
 - d. NPS policy allows for recovery of the costs of this user fee.
2. **Why has it been nearly 30 years since the last fee adjustment?**
 - a. Fee increases were proposed at various levels of the Grand Canyon National Park leadership over the past 26 years.
 - b. A variety of circumstances allowed the proposals to not be approved.
 - c. Last 15 years, it was tracked that the same level of service, as well as an increase in some services, was being provided leading to increased costs.
 - d. The resulting deficit was being paid for out of appropriated funds from Congress.
3. **How will the additional funds be used?**
 - a. Recoverable costs are those costs directly attributable to the use. Costs are recoverable when such costs would not have been incurred if the activity did not take place, or, are necessary, in the judgement of the NPS, for the safe completion of the special park use.
 - b. The recoverable costs are for the restoration, mitigation, and monitoring from river recreational use, emergency response for river search and rescue, river patrol, private boater check-ins, and support costs for the named activities.
 - c. All funds received will fund 49% of the above listed costs. The other 51% are funded by commercial river users.
4. **How will the proposed fee increase benefit the park and visitors?**
 - a. 95% of the funding goes directly back to the recreational river community to serve their needs along the river.
 - b. The remaining 5% goes to the administrative support of mitigation, monitoring, emergency response, and river patrol.
 - c. River users will now be fully funding the responses to their river activities.
 - d. The general public, which do not use the river corridor, will no longer have their tax dollars paying for an activity in which they do not participate.
 - e. Recreational river use along the river corridor is one of the causes of resource degradation along the Colorado River. These damages can be mitigated but only when the funding is available. The increased charge ensures the funding is available.

- f. Grand Canyon's Search and Rescue (SAR) Team responded to 345 SARs in 2024. Recreational river users benefited from 50% of these SAR responses.
- g. Preventative SAR is provided to recreational river users when they launch at Lees Ferry through their check-in and safety orientation. This service is funded by the river permit charge.