



Certification Page Regular and Emergency Rules

Revised September 2016

Emergency Rules *(After completing all of Sections 1 through 3, proceed to Section 5 below)*

Regular Rules

1. General Information

a. Agency/Board Name State Parks and Cultural Resources Department			
b. Agency/Board Address 2301 Central Avenue		c. City Cheyenne	d. Zip Code 82002
e. Name of Agency Liaison Domenic Bravo		f. Agency Liaison Telephone Number 307-777-6323	
g. Agency Liaison Email Address domenic.bravo@wyo.gov			h. Adoption Date 08-13-2018
i. Program State Parks Permits and Fees Program			

2. Legislative Enactment

For purposes of this Section 2, "new" only applies to regular rules promulgated in response to a Wyoming legislative enactment not previously addressed in whole or in part by prior rulemaking and does not include rules adopted in response to a federal mandate.

a. Are these rules new as per the above description and the definition of "new" in Chapter 1 of the Rules on Rules?

No. Yes. Please provide the Enrolled Act Numbers and Years Enacted:

3. Rule Type and Information

a. Provide the Chapter Number, Title, and Proposed Action for Each Chapter.
(Please use the Additional Rule Information form for more than 10 chapters and attach it to this certification)

Chapter Number:	Chapter Name:	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amended	<input type="checkbox"/> Repealed
1	Permits to Use State Parks, Recreation Areas, Archaeological Sites, and Historic Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. State Government Notice of Intended Rulemaking

a. Date on which the Proposed Rule Packet (consisting of the Notice of Intent as per W.S. 16-3-103(a), Statement of Principal Reasons, strike and underscore format and a clean copy of each chapter of rules were: **06-12-2018**

- approved as to form by the Registrar of Rules; and
- provided to the Legislative Service Office and Attorney General:

4. Public Notice of Intended Rulemaking

a. Notice was mailed 45 days in advance to all persons who made a timely request for advance notice. No. Yes. N/A

b. A public hearing was held on the proposed rules. No. Yes. Please complete the boxes below.

Date:	Time:	City:	Location:

c. If applicable, describe the emergency which requires promulgation of these rules without providing notice or an opportunity for a public hearing:

5. Final Filing of Rules


a. Date on which the Certification Page with original signatures and final rules were sent to the Attorney General's Office for the Governor's signature: **08-13-2018**

b. Date on which final rules were approved as to form by the Secretary of State and sent to the Legislative Service Office: **08-13-2018**

c. The Statement of Reasons is attached to this certification.

6. Agency/Board Certification

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing information is correct.

Signature of Authorized Individual	
Printed Name of Signatory	Darin J. Westby
Signatory Title	Director
Date of Signature	08-13-2018

7. Governor's Certification

I have reviewed these rules and determined that they:

1. Are within the scope of the statutory authority delegated to the adopting agency;
2. Appear to be within the scope of the legislative purpose of the statutory authority; and, if emergency rules,
3. Are necessary and that I concur in the finding that they are an emergency.

Therefore, I approve the same.

Governor's Signature	
Date of Signature	

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR ADOPTION OF RULES

The Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources is proposing to amend Chapter 1, Permits to Use State Parks, Recreation Areas, Archaeological Sites, and Historic Sites, of its rules. The amendments would increase daily use and entrance fees by 50% during the peak visitation months of May – September. Rates for daily use and camping would remain at current rates for the remainder of the year. Annual permit fees would also be increased, as would fees for amenities and rental facilities. The Department would discontinue charging fees at Fort Fetterman State Historic Site to promote visitation and focus more on donations.

Chapter 1
Permits to Use State Parks, Recreation Areas, Archaeological Sites, and Historic Sites

Section 1. Authority.

- (a) This chapter is adopted pursuant to Wyoming Statute 36-4-121.

Section 2. Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(a) “Additional vehicle” means another vehicle registered in the same name or address as the vehicle listed on the original permit sold by the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (Department) or its authorized selling agents.

(b) “Camping permit” means a permit issued by the Department authorizing overnight usage of park lands.

(c) “Camping structure” means a state provided structure specifically used for sleeping (camping cabins, yurts, etc.) within a campsite.

(d) “Campsite” means an area designated as such by the Department within a state park, recreation area, archeological site, or historic site that contains a state provided picnic table and metal fire ring.

(e) “Daily use permit” means a permit issued by the Department authorizing the use of park lands.

(f) “Duplicate permit” means a replacement permit issued by the Department for a lost, mutilated, or destroyed permit.

(g) “Off season” includes the months of January, February, March, April, October, November, and December.

(h) “Park lands” means all areas administered by the Department, including all state parks, recreation areas, archaeological sites, and historic sites.

(i) “Peak season” includes the months of May, June, July, August, and September.

(j) “Premier camping structure” means a camping structure designated as such by the Department with the approval of the State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission that offers unique camping experiences, such as treehouses and tipis.

(k) “Towed vehicle” means any vehicle in tow by another vehicle.

Section 3. Daily Use and Overnight Camping Permit Areas.

(a) Daily use permits shall be required at the following locations:

- (i) Boysen State Park
- (ii) Buffalo Bill State Park
- (iii) Curt Gowdy State Park
- (iv) Edness K. Wilkins State Park
- (v) Fort Bridger State Historic Site
- (vi) Fort Kearny State Historic Site
- (vii) Glendo State Park
- (viii) Guernsey State Park
- (ix) Hawk Springs State Recreation Area
- (x) Keyhole State Park
- (xi) Seminoe State Park
- (xii) South Pass City State Historic Site
- (xiii) Trail End State Historic Site

(b) Overnight camping permits shall be required at the following locations:

- (i) Boysen State Park
- (ii) Buffalo Bill State Park
- (iii) Connor Battlefield State Historic Site
- (iv) Curt Gowdy State Park
- (v) Glendo State Park
- (vi) Guernsey State Park
- (vii) Hawk Springs State Recreation Area

- (viii) Keyhole State Park
- (ix) Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site
- (x) Seminoe State Park
- (xi) Sinks Canyon State Park

Section 4. Fees for Daily Use and Overnight Camping Permits.

(a) Permit fees shall be assessed per vehicle at any state park, recreation area, or archaeological site where permits are required. The fees per vehicle shall be as follows:

(i) Resident daily use shall be \$4.00 during off season and \$6.00 during peak season

(ii) Resident overnight camping shall be \$6.00 during off season and \$9.00 during peak season

(iii) Non-resident daily use shall be \$6.00 during off season and \$9.00 during peak season

(iv) Non-resident overnight camping shall be \$11.00 during off season and \$16.00 during peak season

(v) Resident annual daily use \$40.00

(vi) Additional vehicle resident annual daily use \$12.00

(vii) Resident annual overnight camping \$50.00

(viii) Additional vehicle resident annual camping \$15.00

(ix) Non-resident annual daily use \$70.00

(x) Additional vehicle non-resident annual daily use \$21.00

(xi) Duplicate annual permits are 30% of the cost of original permit

(xii) Early Bird discounted rate for annual daily use permits (purchased between January 1 and February 15)

(A) Resident annual daily use \$34.00

(B) Non-Resident annual daily use \$63.00

(b) Permit fees shall be assessed per person entering any state park, recreation area, or archaeological site by bicycle, horseback, or on foot where permits are required. The fees per person shall be the same fees as are charged for a vehicle at the respective location.

(c) Any vehicle in tow by another vehicle shall be considered a single vehicle for purposes of these rules and only a single daily use permit and a single overnight camping permit shall be required.

(d) Permit fees shall be assessed per adult entering any of the historic sites listed in section 3(a) of these rules. The fees per adult shall be as follows:

(i) Resident daily use shall be \$2.00 during off season and \$3.00 during peak season

(ii) Non-resident daily use shall be \$4.00 during off season and \$5.00 during peak season

(e) Permit fees for bus tour groups shall be:

(i) \$5.00 per adult entering any of the locations listed in section 3(a) of these rules

(ii) \$10.00 per night per tent for overnight camping at any of the locations listed in section 3(b) of these rules

(f) Additional fees shall be assessed for the following:

(i) Daily use lodge permit shall not exceed \$300.00

(ii) Daily use group picnic shelter and adjacent grounds shall not exceed \$150.00

Section 5. Amenities.

(a) The additional fee for overnight camping in a campsite which contains electrical connections shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) per night.

(i) Electrical connections are available only to persons who hold valid daily use and overnight camping permits. Extension cords may not run from one campsite to another.

(b) The fee to use a shower shall be one dollar (\$1.00) per three (3) minutes of water service.

(c) The fee for renting a camping structure shall not exceed sixty dollars (\$60.00) per night. Damage and cleaning deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00) may be charged for use of a camping structure.

(d) The fee for renting a premier camping structure shall not exceed (\$200.00) per night. Damage and cleaning deposit of up to \$100 dollars (\$100.00) may be charged for use of a premier camping structure.

(e) The fees for these added amenities shall be in addition to all other daily use and/or overnight camping fees required by rule.

Chapter 1
Permits to Use State Parks, Recreation Areas, Archaeological Sites, and Historic Sites

Section 1. Authority.

- (a) This chapter is adopted pursuant to Wyoming Statute 36-4-121.

Section 2. Definitions. As used in this chapter:

(a) “Additional vehicle” means another vehicle registered in the same name or address as the vehicle listed on the original permit sold by the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (Department) or its authorized selling agents.

(b) “Camping permit” means a permit issued by the Department authorizing overnight usage of park lands.

(c) “Camping structure” means a state provided structure specifically used for sleeping (camping cabins, yurts, etc.) within a campsite.

(d) “Campsite” means an area designated as such by the Department within a state park, recreation area, archeological site, or historic site that contains a state provided picnic table and metal fire ring.

(e) “Daily use permit” means a permit issued by the Department authorizing the use of park lands.

(f) “Duplicate permit” means a replacement permit issued by the Department for a lost, mutilated, or destroyed permit.

(g) “Off season” includes the months of January, February, March, April, October, November, and December.

(gh) “Park lands” means all areas administered by the Department, including all state parks, recreation areas, archaeological sites, and historic sites.

(i) “Peak season” includes the months of May, June, July, August, and September.

(hj) “Premier camping structure” means a camping structure designated as such by the Department with the approval of the State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission that offers unique camping experiences, such as treehouses and tipis.

(ik) “Towed vehicle” means any vehicle in tow by another vehicle.

Section 3. Daily Use and Overnight Camping Permit Areas.

(a) Daily use permits shall be required at the following locations:

- (i) Boysen State Park
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- (iv) Edness K. Wilkins State Park
- (v) Fort Bridger State Historic Site
- ~~(vi) Fort Fetterman State Historic Site~~
- (vii) Fort Kearny State Historic Site
- (viii) Glendo State Park
- ~~(ix)~~ (viii) Guernsey State Park
- (ix) Hawk Springs State Recreation Area
- ~~(xi)~~ Keyhole State Park
- ~~(xii)~~ Seminoe State Park
- ~~(xiii)~~ South Pass City State Historic Site
- (xiii) Trail End State Historic Site

(b) Overnight camping permits shall be required at the following locations:

- (i) Boysen State Park
- (ii) Buffalo Bill State Park
- (iii) Connor Battlefield State Historic Site
- (iv) Curt Gowdy State Park
- (v) Glendo State Park
- (vi) Guernsey State Park

- (vii) Hawk Springs State Recreation Area
- (viii) Keyhole State Park
- (ix) Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site
- (x) Seminole State Park
- (xi) Sinks Canyon State Park

Section 4. Fees for Daily Use and Overnight Camping Permits.

(a) Permit fees shall be assessed per vehicle at any state park, recreation area, or archaeological site where permits are required. The fees per vehicle shall be as follows:

(i) Resident daily use shall be \$4.00 during off season and \$6.00 during peak season

(ii) Resident overnight camping shall be \$6.00 during off season and \$9.00 during peak season

(iii) Non-resident daily use shall be \$6.00 during off season and \$9.00 during peak season

(iv) Non-resident overnight camping shall be \$11.00 during off season and \$16.00 during peak season

(v) Resident annual daily use ~~\$33.00~~\$40.00

(vi) Additional vehicle resident annual daily use ~~\$7.00~~\$12.00

(vii) Resident annual overnight camping ~~\$40.00~~\$50.00

(viii) Additional vehicle resident annual camping ~~\$7.00~~\$15.00

(ix) Non-resident annual daily use ~~\$53.00~~\$70.00

(x) Additional vehicle non-resident annual daily use ~~\$7.00~~\$21.00

(xi) Duplicate annual permits are ~~\$7.00~~ 30% of the cost of original permit

(xii) Early Bird discounted rate for annual daily use permits (purchased between January 1 and February 15)

(A) Resident annual daily use ~~\$27.00~~\$34.00

(B) Non-Resident annual daily use ~~\$46.00~~\$63.00

(b) Permit fees shall be assessed per person entering any state park, recreation area, or archaeological site by bicycle, horseback, or on foot where permits are required. The fees per person shall be the same fees as are charged for a vehicle at the respective location. ~~as follows:~~

~~(i) Resident daily use~~ ~~_____~~ ~~\$4.00~~

~~(ii) Non-resident daily use~~ ~~_____~~ ~~\$6.00~~

(c) Any vehicle in tow by another vehicle ~~owned by the same person~~ shall be considered a single vehicle for purposes of ~~this section~~ these rules and only a single daily use permit and a single overnight camping permit shall be required.

(d) Permit fees shall be assessed per ~~person~~ adult entering any ~~historic site where permits are required~~ of the historic sites listed in section 3(a) of these rules. The fees per ~~permit~~ adult shall be as follows:

(i) Resident daily use shall be \$2.00 during off season and \$3.00 during peak season

(ii) Non-resident daily use shall be \$4.00 during off season and \$5.00 during peak season

(e) Permit fees for bus tour groups shall be:

(i) \$5.00 per adult entering any of the locations listed in section 3(a) of these rules

(ii) \$10.00 per night per tent for overnight camping at any of the locations listed in section 3(b) of these rules

~~(e)~~ Additional fees shall be assessed for the following:

(i) Daily use lodge permit shall not exceed ~~\$150.00~~\$300.00

(ii) Daily use group picnic shelter and adjacent grounds shall not exceed ~~\$66.00~~\$150.00

~~(iii) Daily use guided bus tours (per adult)~~ ~~_____~~ ~~\$3.00~~

Section 5. Amenities.

(a) The additional fee for overnight camping in a campsite which contains electrical connections shall be ~~five~~ten dollars (\$10.00) per night.

(i) Electrical connections are available only to persons who hold valid daily use and overnight camping permits. Extension cords may not run from one campsite to another.

(b) The fee to use a shower shall be one dollar (\$1.00) per three (3) minutes of water service.

(c) The fee for renting a camping structure shall not exceed sixty dollars (\$60.00) per night. Damage and cleaning deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00) may be charged for use of a camping structure.

(d) The fee for renting a premier camping structure shall not exceed (\$200.00) per night. Damage and cleaning deposit of up to \$100 dollars (\$100.00) may be charged for use of a premier camping structure.

(e) The fees for these added amenities shall be in addition to all other daily use and/or overnight camping fees required by rule.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

During the public comment period, a total of twenty comments were submitted to the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (Department) via email to state.parks.parks@wyo.gov. These comments included:

- No requests for a formal public hearing.
- Fifteen of the comments voiced opposition to the proposed fee increases.
- Four of the comments were supportive of fee increases.
- One of the comments was neutral. It did not support or oppose, but included suggestions on changes to the reservation system.

During the public comment period, the Department held six informational meetings across the state. These meetings were open to the public. The Department advertised these meetings in print and social media. Public attendance to these meetings was minimal to none.

The Wyo Parks Facebook page was used throughout the public comment period for public outreach. Posts included information on proposed fee changes and public comment submission.

The Department has analyzed all public comments submitted and has determined that it is appropriate to proceed with adopting the proposed changes.

All twenty public comments, along with Department responses (via email), are shown below.

1. Comment:

Christie Christensen, I cannot attend the meeting in Sheridan. However, I wanted to comment on the increase of fees for State Parks and Cultural Resources. DO IT! Our fees are far to low. I just read the article on the study completed by the American Association of Museums, relative to states with historic resources, museums, etc. We are #2 behind DC, Alaska and Hawaii. They tied for #1. When people come to Wyoming they receive the real deal and can learn a great deal about the culture that make us who we are and why history and preservation are important to us. PLEASE INCREASE THE FEES. We need to . . . our resources need the capital for their preservation, staffing and upkeep. They are a great value. Val Burgess

Department Reply:

Ms. Burgess (Val),

It is great to hear from you. We appreciate your support and thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed fee changes. All revenue collected through visitor fees goes right back to Wyo Parks sites to fund new projects, site enhancements, operation/maintenance costs, and resource protection. This includes interpretation and preservation efforts at our historic sites.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

We hope you will return soon and often to visit our beautiful parks and important historic sites.

Sincerely,
Domenic Bravo

2. Comment:

I don't think the proposed park fees are out of line but I would like to make a suggestion on reservations. Allow WY residents to reserve one month prior to opening those sites to out of state residents. Thank you. Brenda Armstrong

Department Reply:

Ms. Armstrong,

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed changes to Wyo Parks fees. As to your comments about our reservation system, we continue to look for ways to enhance the system for our visitors and would be glad to take any suggestions under consideration. Thank you again for your input.

3. Comment:

If the raise goes into effect, we and our friends and family will no longer use parks. We will be forced to only use BLM land. We also foresee others doing the same therefore increasing trash and wear and tear on public lands. We vote no increase so people can enjoy the only damn water around. Thanks for your time, even though we feel it will not matter.

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed changes to Wyo Parks fees. Under the proposed changes, the purchase of an annual resident daily and camping permit will increase by 23% or \$7 and \$10 respectively. In addition, just day use and camping (non-annual permits) only changes for Peak Season. We will also continue to offer the 'Early Bird' special (January 1 - February 15) when daily use permits are discounted 15%.

While we understand that increased fees may create a challenge for some visitors, Wyo Parks struggles with rising operational costs and decreasing budgets in recent years. We have not increased fees since 2008 and even with this fee increase we are still lower than many of the surrounding states. By increasing visitor fees, Wyo Parks will gain increased financial support from the people that utilize the park system.

Sincerely,
Domenic Bravo

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

4. **Comment:**

As a life-long resident in Fremont County I am very offended by the increase. It is getting to the point that we cannot camp anywhere any more without being harassed and having so many rules pushed on us that we cannot enjoy ourselves. The fee at this time is plenty and already making it so that residents cannot afford to go camp as a family. I am a family of 5, and if we have an additional child with us we have to take another vehicle which in return cost for an additional day use and an additional overnight. I have not had one trip to our lakes that we didn't have a Park Ranger at our site asking to see out permits and reminding the children that they cannot build sand castles as they cannot dig on the beach. What fun is that to a child that they cannot enjoy the fun of building a sand castle. The lake will be the next morning have reclaimed the beach area and made it look like nothing had ever been built there. The camp sites that were there as I was growing up are no longer usable due to being blocked off by fencing, rocks, or other means of them not being able to be used. Since the fees were imposed the lakes have become basically unusable. The fishing has decreased, as people are not catching fish, the swimming has decreased due to algae contaminating the water, and the bodies of water that are not on the state parks have all of a sudden either gotten swimmers itch outbreaks, or have had the same reclamation things happen to them making them inaccessible and the numbers of fish decreased. As a local I feel that we should be able to go out and camp on the lakes without having to call and make a reservation for a spot. That it shouldn't cost us an additional \$40 or so to stay in our camper or our tent. If we are going to be paying that amount for this we should have amenities available, and not be harassed!!! Danielle Olheiser

Department Reply:

Ms. Olheiser,

Thank you for sharing your input on the proposed fee changes. You touched on a number of different topics in your email. Since the purpose of this public comment period is to gather public input on proposed fee changes, I want to address that issue in this email. And I would be happy to discuss all of your other concerns if you would please call my office at 307-777-6324.

Rising costs and decreasing budgets in recent years have created challenges for Wyo Parks. Visitor fees are vital to maintaining and improving our facilities. By increasing visitor fees, Wyo Parks will gain increased financial support from the people that utilize the park system. We hope you will continue to visit and enjoy Wyoming state parks and historic sites.

Sincerely,

Domenic Bravo

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

5. Comment:

Sirs, I would like to state my opinion on the proposed rate increases of State Parks: First of all, I would like to commend the State Parks for the added campsites, picnic tables and restrooms that have been installed in the past several years. They make a visit or camping trip a nice experience. However, many of us that love to visit the State Parks either are not physically able nor can afford the fees to visit a National Park, like Yellowstone. We are a good example of that group. Both the wife and I are on a fixed income, which doesn't increase at the rates of your proposed State Park rates. We last visited Yellowstone to the tune of \$50 dollars a car and we will most likely never see that Park again. We currently purchase the annual State Park day use as well as the Annual Camping pass. This is no small investment for an elderly couple on a fixed income. If you continue to raise the State Park rates, we will no longer be able to afford to visit NOR SUPPORT the State Park fees. I would urge you NOT to raise the State Park fees as it's something we can barely afford to do now that the National Park is no longer affordable. Thank you for your service and consideration. Ron and Marcia Collins
Riverton, WY. 82501

Department Reply:

Thank you for sharing your input on the proposed changes to Wyo Parks fees. Under the proposed changes, the purchase of an annual resident daily and camping permit will increase by 23%. We will also continue to offer the 'Early Bird' special (January 1 - February 15) when daily use permits are discounted 15%. While we understand that increased fees may create a challenge for some visitors, Wyo Parks struggles with rising operational costs and decreased budgets in recent years. By increasing visitor fees, Wyo Parks will gain increased financial support from the people that utilize the park system. We hope you will return soon and often to enjoy Wyoming state parks and historic sites.
Sincerely,
Domenic Bravo

6. Comment:

Having grown up in an area adjacent to a state park and having a business adjacent to the park, my family has seen the visitation go down drastically at the Fort Bridger State Historic Site over the years. In addition, the State Park used to be a place in which local families spent an afternoon on picnics, having family reunions, holding weddings and much more. This local usage went out the window when the state park started charging. And to add to the decrease, people from the Salt Lake Valley used to come up and spend a night or two several times during the summer and visit the park and enjoy its facilities. Now, that is all gone also. We will have people come into our business during the summer. When we ask if we can help them, they tell us they have family inside the fort, but they, themselves, were there last year or a couple of years ago so they didn't go in.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

The reason, the fee. The raising of the fee, particularly at Fort Bridger, will be detrimental to the site, in my opinion. In addition the charges at the Rendezvous has drastically cut the visitors from the local area. Many of the locals used to go to the Rendezvous each day or most of the days. Now, the majority of the locals no longer go to the Rendezvous. Virginia Giorgis Editor Bridger Valley Pioneer

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed fee changes. New legislation in 2017 required Wyo Parks to set its fees in rules and allowed for fee increases within maximum amounts set by law. In 2017, Wyo Parks established rules to set fees but did not raise fees. During the subsequent months, Wyo Parks conducted research to determine whether fee increases were appropriate. Visitor input was collected through surveys, which indicated strong support for moderate fee increases. At Fort Bridger, 79 visitors were surveyed and 87% of them were in support of a fee increase. Of the respondents that favored an increase, the average amount of increase supported was \$3.35.

Wyo Parks also looked to similar park systems in the region to compare pricing and found that Wyoming fees are among the lowest priced in the region. Operational costs were examined. Based on all of the information gathered, Wyo Parks determined that 2019 fee increases were appropriate.

Fort Bridger State Historic Site, like many of our other parks and sites, is closely tied to the local community. It draws in visitors from out of state who in turn have an economic impact that supports jobs and revenue for local businesses. Our hope is that an increase of \$1 per visitor will help boost our revenue without being a deterrent to future visitation. The Fort Bridger Rendezvous Association has a contract with Wyo Parks to hold their annual Mountain Man Rendezvous. This annual event is the second largest outdoor public event in Wyoming and brings many tourists to the area. For 2018, the admission fee for persons 12 and older will be \$5. Revenue from admissions, crafts and bake sales, ice, vendors, etc. bring in an estimated \$61,840, which covers costs of hosting event as well as benefiting the Association for future events at the site (\$61,840), Fort Bridger State Historic Site (\$14,000), and several local non-profits.

We hope you will continue to visit and enjoy Wyoming's state parks and historic sites.

Sincerely,

Domenic Bravo

7. Comment:

Having lived in WY for the past 40 years, I feel the residents of WY deserve a break and should be able to use our state parks free of charge. We pay our taxes which I feel should cover our use of our state lands and not be assessed additional fees when we choose to utilize them. If the state needs to generate more revenue, look to the non-residents to get

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

it from. They come and use our lands without having to pay taxes on an ongoing basis, and get to benefit from what the WY tax payers provide. I feel assessing fees to residents of WY is “double dipping” and Im tired of being taken advantage of. As for raising fees for WY residents, I am definitely against this.

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed changes to Wyo Parks fees. While our department does receive some funding through general fund tax dollars, that money does not fully fund Wyo Parks operations. Revenue from visitor fees continues to be a vital source of funding. 100% of the revenue from visitor fees goes right back into our parks and sites to pay for maintenance, improvements, resource protection and other operational expenses at our facilities.

Charging higher fees to non-residents is a suggestion we hear frequently from visitors. Because Wyo Parks receives some federal funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund there are restrictions that we have to follow. We cannot charge non-residents higher than 50% more than what we charge residents. Under the proposed new fees, fees for non-residents would be 40-50% higher than resident fees. We will also continue to offer annual camping permits to residents only. Another consideration is the economic impact that out of state residents have on our state. Tourists dollars coming into Wyoming businesses help create jobs and revenue for Wyoming residents.

We hope you will return to visit our parks and site soon and often.

Sincerely,

Domenic Bravo

8. Comment:

I agree with the fee increase in order to keep our parks safe and clean for all to enjoy.

Thanks!

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed fee increase for Wyo Parks. This will be the first major increase to our fees since 2009! The additional revenue will be a boost to our budgets, which have been cut in recent years. 100% of revenue from visitor fees goes right back into the parks and sites to fund maintenance, improvement, resource protection, and other operational costs.

We hope you will continue to visit and enjoy Wyoming's state parks and historic sites.

Sincerely,

Domenic Bravo

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

9. Comment:

Hello, Just wanted to share my thoughts on the proposed fee increases for 2019. A 30% increase next year would not be too bad, as that would probably put fees where they need to be. With such a large increase, I would hate to see an increase the next year or habitual increases each year. I would also love to see you continue to offer the discounted passes to residents during the month of January. As a single person, the pass would lose its value if fees would be increased to much more than \$40-\$50. Maybe there is room to have family passes and passes for single people that would be available at different price points. I utilize the parks for camping and hiking with my dog mostly. There might also be room to charge extra fees based on the activities you do at the parks such as boating or snowmobiling. I am more than happy to pay my part to support Wyoming state parks, but unfortunately there is a limit on what I can justify paying. Thanks, Jason Harper

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed fee increase. Your concerns about additional increases in the years ahead are understandable. This will be the first major increase to our fees since 2009! We do not anticipate raising fees again anytime soon. These new fees will be an important boost to our budgets, which have been cut in recent years. All revenue from visitor fees goes right back into the parks and sites to fund maintenance, improvement, resource protection, and other operational costs. We hope you will continue to visit and enjoy Wyoming's state parks and historic sites. Sincerely,
Domenic Bravo

10. Comment:

I am against fee increases for state parks. If the legislature can spend 400 million on the Capitol reconstruction, they can fund the state parks so fee increases are not necessary

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the fee increase for WyoParks. While our department does receive some funding through general fund tax dollars, that money does not fully fund Wyo Parks operations. Revenue from visitor fees continues to be a vital source of funding. 100% of the revenue from visitor fees goes right back into our parks and sites to pay for maintenance, improvements, resource protection and other operational expenses at our facilities. We hope you will continue to visit and enjoy Wyoming's state parks and historic sites. Sincerely,
Domenic Bravo

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11. Comment:

I live about 40 miles from Keyhole State Park. We pay 4.00 each time we go to the lake. We can never find any camping spots because they have a lot of the lake blocked off, and they won't fix the roads. I do not agree with the price increases for the fact that the money has not been used to make the lake any better. Open up more camping spots and fix the roads then maybe I can justify the increase but until things are fixed I will not support it. My family will start going to South Dakota to fish and camp if you increase fees without opening up more camping sites and fix roads.

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed fee changes. 100% of the revenue from visitor fees goes right back into our parks and sites to pay for maintenance, improvements, resource protection and other operational expenses at our facilities. New campsites, road maintenance and weed control are also funded through visitor fees, and could be improved with additional funding.

I will look at the issues you brought up like road improvements and more camping spots. I know we have worked on many of the roads in the park this year, but there is always room for improvement.

Keyhole is definitely one of the most beautiful places for camping in the state and we hope you will return to visit it and other Wyo Parks facilities soon and often.

Sincerely,

Domenic Bravo

12. Comment:

I wouldn't have a problem if the money went towards road maintenance, making more camping sites. Creating more sandy beaches that used to be there at Keyhole which is now tree and weed infested. If not I'll go out of state where they do that.

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to provide input on proposed fee increase for WyoParks. 100% of the revenue from visitor fees goes right back into our parks and sites to pay for maintenance, improvements, resource protection and other operational expenses at our facilities.

I will look into the issues you describe like road maintenance, although I know we have been working on some roads in the park this year. Road maintenance and weed control are also funded through visitor fees, and could be improved with additional funding.

Keyhole is definitely one of the most beautiful places for camping in the state and we hope you will return to visit it and other Wyo Parks facilities soon and often.

Sincerely,

Domenic Bravo

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13. Comment:

Good Morning, Christie!

We have purchased both the annual day use and the annual camping permits. This comes to a total of about \$70.00 from ONE RETIRED COUPLE! We have used the Boysen State Park exactly twice so far this year. I think that's a substantial expense for no more than we use the Park Facility. However, if these costs go up, we will no longer support the State Parks in any shape or form. We shall attend one of these meetings and express our displeasure of raising the fees. But, we both know that's a total waste of time for us and merely throwing a crumb to the public like you really care about our opinion on raising fees. We both know that the State spending is out of line with the service that you provide. Seriously, does \$70.00 a year for a picnic table in the sand among the mosquitos sound like a good investment to you? Me neither! Like any other Government branch, there is never enough money for you people! So, if you want to lose customers, go ahead and raise the fees. We will be two of those that will never return! You mention the last fee increase for the Parks was in 2009. My last raise of income was in 2008, so you find no sympathetic ear with me! Thank You, Ron Collins Riverton, WY.

Department Reply:

Thank you for sharing your input on the proposed changes to Wyo Parks fees.

Under the proposed changes, the purchase of an annual resident daily and camping permit will increase by 23%. We will also continue to offer the 'Early Bird' special (January 1 - February 15) when daily use permits are discounted 15%.

While we understand that increased fees may create a challenge for some visitors, Wyo Parks struggles with rising operational costs and decreased budgets in recent years. By increasing visitor fees, Wyo Parks will gain increased financial support from the people that utilize the park system.

We hope you will return soon and often to enjoy Wyoming state parks and historic sites.

Sincerely,

Domenic Bravo

14. Comment:

Hello I saw the posting requesting public comment about user fees for the State Parks and thought I would drop my \$.02 in. I am a non resident and come up to use Glendo and Guernsey. We came up as a group just this last weekend. One of my normal group declined to come with us as they thought the fees are already too high. I will tell you with confidence if you further increase fees on non residents you will lose me as well as three other families that came this weekend. We visit state parks in Wyoming Utah Colorado and Nebraska. We pay more (and feel like we get less) in Wyoming than anywhere else. For me out of state, I paid a \$30 ans/ais fee for my boat (and would have to pay again if I wanted to take my fishing boat into the state). Plus a camping fee (for both of my

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vehicles, even though i am only using one camping site). Plus a day use pass. Even without the ans sticker, I'm still nearly \$70 for two days. In exchange, I get a site with no electricity, no toilets that are near me, no shower facilities, no fish cleaning facilities, no nearby trash, and no nearby fresh water for my trailer. Compare that to Colorado, where I would have all of that for about the same price. Perhaps you are looking to have less out of state users. I understand that and often feel the same way. But I don't think that is fiscally responsible. In summary, if you raise fees, I will no longer visit the Wyoming state parks. Thanks Ryan

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed fee changes. Your email indicates that you frequently visit Glendo and Guernsey State Parks. Visitor fees are vital to funding maintenance, improvements, resource protection and other operational expenses at our facilities. By increasing fees we will gain greater financial support from the people that utilize the park system.

Some examples of projects that have been funded at Glendo and Guernsey through revenue from visitor fees include new dump stations, new campsites, new electric/water hookups, hazard tree mitigation, new hike/bike trails and three new yurts.

Glendo and Guernsey are definitely two of the most beautiful places for camping in the state and we hope you will return to visit them and other Wyo Parks facilities soon and often.

Sincerely,

Domenic Bravo

15. Comment:

Input for proposed increase in fees: As a Non-resident that frequents Glendo State Park on a regular basis, I understand the cost to manage State Parks. We love Glendo! What I don't love is the fact that a resident annual camping pass for a resident is 40.00 and an annual camping pass is 33.00 = 73.00 for the year. When I as a Non-Resident pays 53.00 for an annual Day Use pass and Per day camping of 11.00. One weekend a summer pays for what a resident pays for an entire year. Again, I realize I am a Non-Resident but when a proposed fee increase is on the slate...funding could increase by imposing a larger increase for residency as well. As a resident of Colorado; I pay 150.00 for an Annual pass and 20.00 per night at Horsetooth Reservoir in Colorado. Lack of State Income Tax is another impact for lack of funding for your beautiful State Parks. Thank you for allowing me to provide feedback. Amber Lacy

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Department Reply:

Ms. Lacy,

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed fee changes. Your email indicates that you frequently visit Glendo State Park. Visitor fees are vital to funding maintenance, improvements, resource protection and other operational expenses at our facilities. By increasing fees we will gain greater financial support from the people that utilize the park system.

Some examples of projects that have been funded at Glendo through revenue from visitor fees include new dump stations, new campsites, hazard tree mitigation, new hike/bike trails and three new yurts. Glendo is definitely one of the most beautiful places for camping in the state and we hope you will return to visit it and other Wyo Parks facilities soon and often.

Sincerely,

Domenic Bravo

16. Comment:

I'd like to express my concerns regarding the substantial increase in fees for state parks. I'm a South Dakota resident and frequently visit Glendo State Park. I've been doing this for 15 plus years. I normally purchase a annual daily pass for my vehicles. I've been made aware that the state intends to increase these fees by 30% starting in 2019. With the addition of the cost of an aquatic pass (a few years ago) for each boat and the increases in annual passes I doubt I will return to Glendo. Over the years I've noticed some improvements in the State Park but they were very minimal. What I do notice is more Park Rangers patrolling the water in nicer boats and pricey jet skis. Many Travelers reviews indicate the Rangers are overzealous in their duties, with nit picky rules at the beach. I believe that the increase in fees will only benefit the state and Park Service itself, not the visitor or the businesses surrounding Glendo. These businesses heavily rely on the tourists from other states as well as Wyoming folks for their livelihood. I further believe that the state has gotten away from the original purpose of a state park. The park should be for the people to enjoy at a reasonable cost. This makes it difficult for a family with limited income resources to enjoy state land. This really grinds my gears..... you're setting the Precedence for future price increases (30%) which will eventually price out my kids and grandkids. I'm a realist and I know cost increase every year, but the answer is not more government influence or the government taking more money from people. I also realize that regardless of the public's input the state will increase the fees. We've honestly gotten away from what's best for the public,, to what's best for the state. Park fees in South Dakota are much less than in Wyoming. This is why you don't see many people from South Dakota there and the amenities are equally as good, and no state tax! I request that you keep the parks fees at a minimal increase maybe 10 or 15%. Do what's right for the people- not the Parks Department department, don't live in a vacuum- think

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outside the box. Jon V.

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed fee changes. Your email indicates that you frequently visit Glendo State Park. Visitor fees are vital to funding maintenance, improvements, resource protection and other operational expenses at our facilities. By increasing fees we will gain greater financial support from the people that utilize the park system.

Some examples of projects that have been funded at Glendo through revenue from visitor fees include new dump stations, new campsites, hazard tree mitigation, new hike/bike trails and three new yurts.

I would like to point out that the park staff do not patrol the water, so we do not have boats or jet skis.

17. Comment:

I have been a Wyoming resident since I was seven years old. I have travelled all over this state and visited most state parks. Wyoming's history is unique and our state is one of the most beautiful and diverse in America. Maintenance fees everywhere are not decreasing and the public should not expect our fees to remain the same and yet expect better -and more- services. I fully support the increase in user fees for all State Parks and Historic Sites in Wyoming. Thank you for working so hard to include the public in the discussions and keep us updating on the situation. Thank all the Wyoming State Parks and Historic Sites employees who keep our parks and historic sites beautiful – you are appreciated.
Stephanie Lowe

Department Reply:

Ms. Lowe,

It is great to hear from you.

Thank you for complimenting our Wyo Parks staff. They take pride in what they do and it shows! We appreciate your support and thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed fee changes.

Sincerely,

Domenic

18. Comment:

I feel that prices should be increased for non-residents but not for residents. We can't even get a reservation because of all the Colorado people that reserve spots for every weekend. We have not been able to reserve a spot for years now. If our rates are going to increase maybe there can be sites that are only reservable for residents. I have no problems paying the fees but it would sure be nice to be able to use our parks and the

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amenities that are being added using our money. Tina

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed changes to Wyo Parks fees. Charging higher fees to non-residents is a suggestion we hear frequently from visitors. Some of the federal funding we rely on restricts us from charging non-residents more than 50% more than what we charge residents. We will continue to offer annual camping permits to residents only. Another important consideration for us is the economic impact that out of state residents have on our state. Tourists dollars coming into Wyoming businesses help create jobs and revenue for Wyoming residents. As to your comments about our reservation system, we continue to look for ways to enhance the system for our visitors and would be glad to take any suggestions for improvements under consideration. We hope you will return to visit our parks and site soon and often.

Sincerely,
Domenic Bravo

19. Comment:

The fees need to be "Wyo resident friendly" . I am a 32 year resident. It is so frustrating to show up at a state park, with my yearly access and camping permits, only to find Colorado tags taking up the good sites. My family is only able to enjoy our parks on the weekends. I have not used the reservation system, but those all also appear to be Colo residents in those spaces. I think out of state rates need to be higher, maybe even double of the resident rates. I also would propose a larger window for residents (or resident yearly permit holders) to make reservations above what is available for out of state users. I don't oppose out of state users, but I do think that if they are willing to travel longer distances, buying more fuel, etc they would be willing to pay a larger access fee. Maybe even make yearly permits available Only to Wyo residents. Thank you for allowing public input.

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed changes to Wyo Parks fees. Charging higher fees to non-residents is a suggestion we hear frequently from visitors. Because Wyo Parks receives some federal funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund there are restrictions that we have to follow. We cannot charge non-residents higher than 50% more than what we charge residents. Under the proposed new fees, fees for non-residents would be 40-50% higher than resident fees. We will also continue to offer annual camping permits to residents only. Another consideration is the economic impact that out of state residents have on our state. Tourists dollars coming into Wyoming businesses help create jobs and revenue for Wyoming residents.

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As to your comments about our reservation system, we continue to look for ways to improve the system for our visitors. We will take your suggestions into consideration. We hope you will return to visit our parks and site soon and often.

Sincerely,
Domenic Bravo

20. Comment:

the survey on increased fees was not published until after the fact. you are driving out the little people around this area. if your not a vet or a minority you don't stand a chance. I never once saw a survey for this. It was probably given to the out of state people to guarantee them the spots. Also the electric fee is a way too high, you can power a camper for a month on a ten dollar charge. We had a feeling something was going to change when the power was put in certain spots! Also taxes pay your way, if not you would not be here. This is not right, it is not worth it to use your facilities if this goes through. Montana's yearly charge for non residents is only \$30.00 AND NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE! Consider the people instead of the state, if it wasn't for us you would not be here. Thanks for listening....

Department Reply:

Thank you for taking the time to share your input on the proposed changes to Wyo Parks fees. Rising costs and decreasing budgets in recent years have created challenges for Wyo Parks. Visitor fees are vital to maintaining and improving our facilities. By increasing visitor fees, Wyo Parks will gain increased financial support from the people that utilize the park system. We hope you will continue to visit and enjoy Wyoming state parks and historic sites.

Sincerely,
Domenic Bravo