

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: 10/9/2019

ISSUE: Should CPW change regulations in Chapter P-7 to raise fees for daily vehicle park passes by \$1?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

The Colorado State Park Product Fee Increase Committee was created in July 2018 to evaluate several parks product decision options including raising fees (for any and/or all products including: premium camping), adding a hangtag pass, replacement park pass costs, expanding individual daily pass requirements to more parks. The committee looked at the full pass and permit fee schedule and came up with a package of fee increases that were put in place in January 2019. The Parks and Wildlife Commission took action in the fall of 2018 to increase vehicle daily passes by \$1 and annual passes by \$10 (the maximum one year increase allowed by law) with an effective date of January 1, 2019.

These two fee increases were projected to increase revenue by approximately \$2 million annually. Revenues in the first 6 months of 2019 did not prove out the projections; however, the data seems to reflect a delay to purchases due to a late wet spring. Early indications in FY 2019-20 are more favorable, but these environmental influences will always be present and fee revenue is not sufficient to absorb these variations at this time. In looking into the parks financial situation, the LT decided that the daily vehicle pass fee should be raised by \$1 for the entire system in 2020. A daily vehicle pass will increase by \$1 to \$9 for most parks and to \$10 for Chatfield, Boyd Lake and Eldorado Canyon state parks, and \$11 for Cherry Creek (due to the Cherry Creek Water Basin Authority fee). Annual park passes including Aspen Leaf, Centennial, and Columbine passes will remain unchanged. This \$1 daily park pass increase is expected to generate approximately \$1 million more in revenue for the system. The \$1 increase to daily vehicle passes is consistent with market rates, and would also help to incentivize the purchase of annual vehicle passes.

This issue will be presented by staff to the PWC in November and then in January 2020 for proposed final adoption. The fee increase would become live March 1, 2020.

Note: With the passage of the Future Generations Act (SB 18-143), the Commission now has the authority to raise park pass fees by no more than \$1 annually on all daily park passes and by no more than \$10 per year on annual park passes.

WHO ARE THE EXTERNAL PUBLICS IMPACTED BY THIS ISSUE? WHAT PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS HAS OCCURRED, IF ANY?

***IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL NECESSARY INTERNAL PARTIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED*.**

Public comment in the 2015 strategic plan and park visitors statewide

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

1. ***Preferred***: Change daily vehicle pass fees to \$9.00 per vehicle in P-700(4)(a). (The \$1.00 vehicle capacity fee would still be added to the cost of daily vehicle passes at Cherry Creek, Chatfield, and Boyd Lake State Recreation Areas, and Eldorado Canyon State Parks in P-700(4)(a)(2).)
2. Status quo

Issue Raised by:	Colorado State Parks Fee Increase Committee
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	Margaret Taylor
CC:	Region Managers; Park Managers
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Dan Prenzlou
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	N/A
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

Daily Park Fee Increase FAQs



Park Passes and Permit Questions:

1. Why are daily vehicle park passes increasing by \$1 for 2020?
2. When was the last price increase for park passes?
3. When will the new fees for parks passes and permits go into effect?
4. How much will it cost to enter a state park with a vehicle?
5. How much will it cost to enter a state park without a vehicle?
6. Will there be changes to the fees for commercial parks passes?

General CPW Questions:

1. Where will the money from these fee increases go?
2. How can I be sure CPW is using the money wisely?
3. Who can I contact if I have a question or concern about these fee increases?

Park Passes and Permit FAQ Answers:

Why are daily vehicle parks pass increasing by \$1 for 2020?

Colorado State Parks used to receive almost 30% of operating dollars from the state general fund, but since 2010 state parks have not received funding from state general tax dollars except occasional small amounts (less than one percent of the budget) for special projects. The loss of general funds resulted in reduced park programs and cuts to the number of full-time and temporary staff.

At present, the Colorado State Parks system still faces significant financial challenges: increasing operational costs, changes to minimum wage and temporary benefits, additional vendor and technology costs, property maintenance needs, etc. The \$1 daily vehicle parks pass increase will continue to help the agency face its financial challenges, while providing continued services to a growing number of park visitors.

The 2019 fee increase was not enough funding to stabilize the parks system budget shortfall.

While the Commission had the authority to increase park fees, it could not exercise them because CPW had reached a total cap on park revenue (set in law). With the passage of the Future Generations Act (SB 18-143), the Commission has the authority to raise park pass fees

by no more than \$1 annually on all daily park passes and by no more than \$10 per year on annual park passes. All other park products/fees can now be adjusted as necessary without any cap.

When was the last price increase for park passes?

Colorado State Park fees were last increased for camping and entry fees in 2019.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission took action in the fall of 2018 to increase vehicle daily passes by \$1 and annual passes by \$10 (the maximum one year increase allowed by law) with an effective date of January 1, 2019. These two fee increases were projected to increase revenue by approximately \$2 million annually. Revenues in the first 6 months of 2019 did not prove out the projections, however the data seems to reflect a delay to purchases due to a late wet spring. Early indications in FY 2019-20 are more favorable, but these environmental influences will always be present and fee revenue is not sufficient to absorb these variations at this time. This \$1 daily park pass increase is expected to generate approximately \$1 million more in revenue for the system.

When will the new fee increase for daily vehicle parks passes go into effect?

The \$1 increase on the daily vehicle entrance fee will go into effect on March 1, 2020.

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How much will it cost to enter a state park with a vehicle?

A daily vehicle pass will increase to \$9 for most parks and to \$10 for Chatfield, Boyd Lake and Eldorado Canyon state parks, and \$11 for Cherry Creek (due to the Cherry Creek Water Basin Authority fee).

Annual park passes including Aspen Leaf, Centennial, and Columbine passes will remain unchanged.

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How much will it cost to enter a state park without a vehicle?

In 2020, this cost will remain unchanged. Individuals (ages 16+) who access any one of a select 20 state parks (Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area, Barr Lake, Crawford, Colorado State Forest, Eldorado Canyon, Elkhead Reservoir, Harvey Gap, Highline Lake, James M. Robb - Colorado River, Lory, Pearl Lake, Rifle Gap, Rifle Falls, Stagecoach, Steamboat Lake, Sweitzer Lake, Sylvan Lake, Trinidad Lake, Vega and Yampa River State Parks) without a vehicle will be required to buy an individual daily pass, which costs \$4. A receipt for any annual parks pass would also be acceptable for entry without a vehicle.

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Will there be changes to the fees for commercial parks passes?

There are no changes to the cost of a daily vehicle pass for a passenger in a van or bus operated by a commercial business. (Each daily vehicle pass for a passenger van or bus operated by a commercial business will remain \$10 for vehicles carrying up to 15 passengers, \$40 for vehicles carrying 16 to 30 passengers and \$50 for vehicles carrying more than 30 passengers.)

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General CPW Questions:

Where will the money from these fee increases go?

Per the Future Generations Act, additional money from sales of licenses, passes and permits will go towards achieving 10 key goals by 2025. By statute, parks and wildlife budgets are separately maintained, and park fees will be used on the goals below that focus on parks, lands and recreation. They include:

1. Growing the number of hunters and anglers
2. Expanding public and private land access
3. Increasing big game populations
4. Improving wildlife populations
5. Increasing the number of fish stocked
6. Planning a new state park
7. Maintaining CPW's dams
8. Engaging all outdoor recreationists in funding and conservation
9. Recruiting and retaining qualified employees
10. Maintenance and improvement of parks and wildlife areas

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How can I be sure CPW is using the money wisely?

CPW will report annually to the General Assembly on any changes made to CPW's fee structure, the impact of those changes on license sales and the impact of new revenues on the achievement of the 10 goals.

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Who can I contact if I have a question or concern about these fee increases?

For questions, please contact CPW's customer service representatives using one of the following methods:

1. Call or come by an office. View CPW's [contact us page](#) for more information.
2. Email your question or message using this [form](#).
3. For concerns, please contact the [Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission](#) by emailing the commission at: dnr_cpwcommission@state.co.us