

ISSUES SUBMITTAL FORM

Date: January 2, 2026

ISSUE: Should CPW increase the daily vehicle park pass fee for vehicles with out-of-state license plates?

DISCUSSION (FACTS AND FIGURES, EXPLANATION OF ISSUE):

Unlike hunting or fishing licenses, daily park pass fees are currently the same price regardless of residency. Non-residents pay the same price (\$10-\$12) as residents. While derived from a small sample based on campground reservations and annual pass sales, it is estimated that approximately 10% of daily park pass purchases are by non-residents. Approximately 70% of daily park pass sales occur during weekends, which typically constitute the highest daily attendance at Colorado's state parks of the week. Non-residents, therefore, are consumers of state park opportunities that can, during particularly busy times at state parks, impact residents' opportunities to more immediately enter a state park, or achieve a park reservation. Currently, approximately 22 states charge non-residents higher fees for entry into their state parks. Residency in Colorado is defined by 33-10-102, which determines that a "resident means any person who has been domiciled in this state for six consecutive months or more immediately preceding the date of application for or purchase of any registration...who reside in this state with the genuine intent of making this state his or her place of permanent abode.." Utilizing this definition of residency can create challenges and delays in determining residency at entrance stations, and therefore delay the admission of visitors into Colorado's state parks. Instead, this pass would be based on the vehicle's license plate, which can be easily determined quickly at the entrance station.

STATE LAW REQUIRES CPW TO SOLICIT INPUT FROM STAKEHOLDERS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY BY THE PROPOSED RULES. THE FOLLOWING STAKEHOLDERS HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF AND INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT ON THE REGULATORY CHANGES PROPOSED IN THIS ISSUE PAPER:

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

There has been no stakeholder input solicited at this point, but these changes would affect any park visitors who come to the park in a vehicle with a non-Colorado license plate.

ALTERNATIVES: (POSSIBLE OUTCOMES or POSSIBLE REGULATIONS):

- 1. ***Preferred Alternative***: Create a non-resident license plate daily parks pass product at the base cost of \$15 for a vehicle entering a state park with an out-of-state license plate. For parks with a \$2 county access or water quality fee, the price would be increased from \$15 accordingly.
- Regulation #700.4.** Daily vehicle passes are as follows:
- a. A fee of \$10.00 per vehicle for any vehicle displaying a Colorado license plate except for:
 - 1. Passenger vans and buses operated by a commercial business.
 - 2. A \$2.00 per vehicle Chatfield Water Basin Fee will be added to the cost of daily vehicle passes at Chatfield State Park.
 - 3. A \$2.00 per vehicle Local Access Fee will be added to the cost of daily vehicle passes at Elkhead Reservoir, Golden Gate Canyon, Pearl Lake, Stagecoach, State Forest, and Steamboat Lake State Parks.
 - b. A fee of \$15.00 per vehicle for any vehicle with an out-of-state license plate except for:
 - 1. Passenger vans and buses operated by a commercial business.
 - 2. A \$2.00 per vehicle Chatfield Water Basin Fee will be added to the cost of daily vehicle passes at Chatfield State Park.
 - 3. A \$2.00 per vehicle Local Access Fee will be added to the cost of daily vehicle passes at Elkhead Reservoir, Golden Gate Canyon, Pearl Lake, Stagecoach, State Forest, and Steamboat Lake State Parks.

c. School buses on official school outings, passenger vans and buses operated by a nonprofit corporation or organization as defined in 13-21-115.5 (3), C.R.S., and passenger vans and buses operated by any government agency are eligible to purchase a daily vehicle pass.

de. For passenger vans and buses operated by a commercial business, the daily vehicle pass fee will be based upon the number of passengers on-board. The fee shall be \$10.00 for up to fifteen passengers on-board, \$40.00 for sixteen to thirty passengers on-board, and \$50.00 for more than thirty passengers on-board

Regulation #708.g Each daily vehicle pass issued to a vehicle with a Colorado license plate (exceptions follow)\$10.00

1. At Chatfield, Elkhead Reservoir, Golden Gate Canyon, Pearl Lake, Stagecoach, State Forest, and Steamboat Lake State Parks\$12.00

h. Each daily vehicle pass issued to a vehicle with an out-of-state license plate (exceptions follow).....\$15.00

1. At Chatfield, Elkhead Reservoir, Golden Gate Canyon, Pearl Lake, Stagecoach, State Forest, and Steamboat Lake State Parks\$17.00

2. **Alternative 2:** Status Quo

Issue Raised by:	Tim Mauck, Deputy Director of Operations
Author of the issue paper (if different than person raising the issue):	
CC:	
APPROVED FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY:	Laura Ciellan, Acting Director
REQUIRES NEW SPACE IN THE BROCHURE?	YES
ARE ADEQUATE STAFF AND FUNDING RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT?	YES
REGION, BRANCH, OR SECTION LEADING IMPLEMENTATION	Director's Office
RECOMMENDED FOR CONSENT AGENDA?	NO