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## State Parks Infrastructure

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### Current State

- For FY26, the State Parks division of the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department will be funded by \$12.5 million from the General Fund, \$19.1 million from Other State Funds (entry fees, park fees, etc.), and \$9.2 million in Federal funds.
- The division manages 35 state parks, and the agency is authorized at 239.66 FTE, with the majority of these FTE being part time FTE used to staff the state parks during busy seasons, causing a fluctuating vacancy rate.
- The self-generated revenue per visitor, one of the performance measures tied to the State Parks division, is close to its yearly target of \$1 per visitor
- Through a mixture of nonrecurring, and capital outlay, the Legislature has appropriated \$39.5 million dollars over four years to the State Parks division of Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources for State Park Infrastructure improvements.
- The brunt of this funding came in the FY22 Legislative session, with \$20 million outlined for park improvements. Of this \$20 million, \$14.3 million has been expended and \$2.5 has been encumbered, leaving \$3.1 million in available funds for park improvements.
- Of the \$8.8 million appropriated to State Parks in capital outlay funds between 2016 and 2022, \$8.1 million has been expended between 10 separate projects.
- Most recently, for FY25 the Legislature appropriated \$16.1 million in capital outlay funds to the State parks for restoration and infrastructure.

### Proposed Park Fee Increases

- State Parks depend on revenues generated by entrance pass sales, concession, boat registration fees, and various other revenue sources to operate. These fees were last updated 25 to 40 years ago. To adjust for the increased cost of park operation, the division commissioned a study, done by staff and other experts, to find out to what level fees should be increased to.
- The proposed fee increases were based on comparison of other state fees to try and reach regional parity, frequency of fees and how to balance revenue with accessibility, and the impact of inflation on wages and operation costs.

- Below is a table outlining the proposed fees and the possible revenue impacts:

Fee type	Current Cost	Proposed Cost	Revenue Impact
Day Use (Resident)	\$5 per vehicle	Free for Residents	(\$862,500)
Day Use (Non-resident)	\$5 per vehicle	\$10 per vehicle	\$575,000
Primitive Camping	\$8 per vehicle	\$20 per vehicle	\$1,728,000
Developed Camping	\$10 per vehicle	\$20 per vehicle	\$2,048,000
Utilities (water, electric, sewer)	\$4 per day	\$10 per day	\$700,000
Dump Station Fee	Free	\$10 per use	\$250,000
Annual Day-Use Pass	\$40	Eliminate	(\$295,400)
Annual Camping Pass	\$100-\$225	Eliminate	(\$457,000)
Living Desert Entrance Fee	\$.5-\$5	\$1-\$10	\$107,253
Vessel Registration fees	\$28.50-\$66	\$75-\$180	\$1,525,601
Vessel Launch Fee (non-motorized)	Free	\$5	\$100,000
Potential revenue increase:			\$5,418,954