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November 03, 2017 11:27 AM Mountain Time*

Park: National Park Service
Project: National Park Service Proposes Targeted Fee Increases at Parks to Address
Maintenance Backlog
Document: Fact Sheet and Current and Proposed Fee Rates

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Good day, I agree that we need to preserve and maintain our National Parks. I don't agree with picking out 17 National Parks to increase so steeply their fees. Many of the visitors that go to these parks are families and being mother of 2, family of 4, this puts us in financial issue when it comes to planning out trips. I'm sure there's many more that can agree with me.

I used to live in Oahu and when we visited Hanauma Bay in Honolulu, Hawaii we were required to watch a video every year or every 6 months (I can't remember) which taught us about the rules and regulations, the history, and how to preserve the bay. I think this would be a good alternative. It will help raise awareness on the Leave No Trace and Pack In Pack Out concepts as well as raise funds. I think if you apply this to all 118 parks and charge for example \$20 per family or \$5 for per person to watch this video and an additional \$10 to be added to the list for a year, I think it will not just raise awareness on how to care for the parks but it will also bring in a larger income as you are not just adding this to one park but to all 118 parks. Once you have done the video or the course you will be good to go on the list for the next 365 days for all 118 National Parks.

Another alternative would be doing pledge drives and fundraisers. You can do a pledge drive in which people at the ticket booth or online can pledge to donate a certain amount every month for the next 12 months. They can donate \$5, \$10, \$50, or whatever amount they can afford. You can even do a business team pledge where businesses can donate a monthly amount which is larger amount.

Comments:

Another option is taking the 118 National Parks that charge a fee to increase it by \$5 versus \$30-\$45 on just 17 National Parks that are most visited. On the parking fees, I would look for sponsors where they pay you to display their adds in the parking lots. This can be big companies or even local companies depending on the size of the ad.

Another thing that can be done is something like, "Hike For Our Future" where everyone comes to the park and hikes say 5 miles and everyone has to pay a special fee to attend this event. You can sell t-shirts, have sponsors, have vendors at the event, etc. You can do this seasonally so maybe 4 times a year to bring in extra revenue.

I just know my family and I were planning a few trips to some of the National Parks listed on our family trip to Washington and with this steep increase we may have to change our plans and visit less expensive options. It would break my heart cause some of the parks have been on my bucketlist since I was a little girl. Like the Grand Canyon that my mom and I always dreamed of visiting together one day.

I hope you continue to receive good feedback and different alternative options so you can reconsider this plan. Thank you for your time in reading this.

God bless, Jessica Tejera www.thewalkingmermaid.com

Comment ID: 1285441-83652/50876