

## State Park Fee Increase

### Frequently Asked Questions - 02/27/2009

#### 1. Are state park camping and day-use fees going to increase?

They **might**, starting in 2010, depending on how the state budget is set.

#### 2. Why talk about fees that are 2 years away and may not even get passed?

All state agencies plan new budgets every two years. We're in the July 2007 - June 2009 budget right now. The July 2009 - June 2011 budget is on the drawing board.

The Governor recommends a budget to the state legislature. They discuss the budget and pass bills to set the budgets in law, and send them back to the Governor for signature. The legislature meets in January 2009 to work on the 2009-2011 budget.

The Governor's budget calls for Oregon State Park camping and day use fees to rise starting in 2010. If the legislature passes the budget recommended by the Governor, state park day use fees will increase in January 2010, and camping fees would go up in May 2010.

*State park camping and day-use fees will not change before then.*

#### 3. Why raise fees?

Because the cost of operating the parks keeps climbing, and revenue from two major sources is dropping. Oregon State Parks does not receive a dime of taxpayer (i.e., general fund) dollars. Almost all of our funding comes from user fees, a portion of RV registration dollars, and Lottery. Revenue from RV registrations is split with Oregon's counties, and State Park's share decreased in 2008. Overall registration has dropped dramatically, as well. Projections for Lottery revenue are far below those of recent years.

We have not raised rates in 12 years. A typical campsite in 1996 cost \$20, and it still does today—even though that \$20 is really only about \$15, when adjusted for inflation (\$20 in 1996 should be about \$26 today). Our camping and day-use rates are now far lower than the market average.

Back in 1996, park visitors paid 72% of the cost to run parks. Today, park visitors cover only 55% of those same costs.

<b>4. How much could fees increase?</b>		
<b>Prime (Summer) Season</b>	<b>Rates* since 1996</b>	<b>Proposed rates starting in 2010</b>
RV sites	\$20	\$24
Tent sites	\$16	\$20
Yurts	\$27	\$36
Cabins	\$35	\$39
Boat moorage	\$7	\$10
Reservation fee	\$6	\$8
Day-use fee, per carload	\$3	\$5
Day-use 12-month pass	\$25	\$30
Day-use 24-month pass	\$40	\$50

**\*Rates vary slightly by park. This is an example only, and it doesn't include lodging tax. Rates drop in Discovery Season (October 30-April 1)**

**5. How much revenue would this proposal bring in?**

Approximately \$4.3 million between January 2010 and June 2011.

**6. How can I comment on all this?**

Whether you support the idea of a state park fee increase, or have concerns about it, there are two ways to be involved.

First, the state legislature posts schedules for public hearings and testimony on their website <http://www.leg.state.or.us/>.

Second, if the legislature passes the budget as recommended by the Governor, the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission (<http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/commission.shtml>) will go through a public process to adopt rules setting these new rates in place.