

**RESOLUTION ON THE SETTING AND/OR ADJUSTING OF USER FEES
FOR MONTANA'S STATE PARKS**

Montana State Parks and Recreation Board

WHEREAS, the mission of Montana State Parks is to preserve and protect our state's heritage and the natural beauty of our public lands for the benefit of our citizens, communities, local economies and out-of-state visitors; and

WHEREAS, responsible stewardship of our state parks requires revenues adequate to protect the resource and provide varied visitor experiences that are appealing, affordable, and accessible; and

WHEREAS, user fees represent a significant, reasonable, and fair source of the revenues required for responsible stewardship, if established with a sensitivity to the relationship between price and access and an emphasis on yield management; and

WHEREAS, Montana's constitution guarantees its citizens the right to know of and participate in decisions by government bodies affecting such matters as the imposition or adjustment of taxes and fees;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD ADVISES THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS TO:

1. Set fees in a manner and at levels that do not price Montanans out of their state parks.
2. Identify the variables related to yield management at each state park and establish varying fee options based on demand for and availability of specific types of user experience and/or specific locations.
3. Review fee schedules annually to ascertain whether fees are responsive to inflation, commensurate with user impacts on the resource, and not a barrier to access.
4. Establish a process that ensures that the public is notified in a timely manner of the intent to set or adjust user fees, has access to the information cited as the basis for that decision, and is provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed fees or fee increases prior to their establishment or adjustment.

Resolved and signed this 16th day of October 2018, by the following members of the State Parks and Recreation Board:

Angie Grove, Chair

Jeff Welch, Vice-Chair

Scott Brown

Mary Sheehy Moe

Betty Stone