

## Comments submitted by the NACPRO Board of Directors on December 20, 2017

WHEREAS the National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to significantly raise the daily entrance fee at 17 of the 118 entrance fee parks, primarily during peak service periods, to \$75 from \$25-\$30 per vehicle, per person to \$30 from \$10-\$15, and motorcycles to \$50 from \$12-\$25. Projected annual revenue from the new peak season price structure could reach \$70 million. The fee generating sites would retain 80% of the new revenue for maintenance while 20% would be spent on projects in other national parks. Further, the administration's FY 2018 budget includes a \$296.6 million reduction in the NPS budget, and

WHEREAS, National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (NACPRO), as an affiliate of the National Association Counties, is concerned about the impact of fee increases on the local, regional and open space parks operated by county governments, and the potential of reduced national park visitation on local economies, and

WHEREAS the National Parks represent a trust for the benefit of the American public, protecting unique physical, historical and cultural resources to be experienced and enjoyed by all citizens. The proposed entrance fee increase will represent an economic barrier limiting the ability of low and moderate income individuals and families to access 17 of the country's most popular national parks, and

WHEREAS NACPRO recognizes the National Park Service's significant \$11.3 billion backlog of deferred maintenance and the impact of these deferred projects on park user's safety and overall experience, and

WHEREAS the **National Park Service Legacy Act of 2017** establishes the National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund, which requires that specified amounts of federal mineral revenues that are not otherwise credited, covered, or deposited pursuant to federal law to be deposited into such fund each fiscal year through FY2047 to fund **high-priority** deferred maintenance needs of the NPS as follows:

- 20% shall be allocated for transportation-related projects that may be eligible for funding made available to the NPS through the federal lands transportation program or any similar federal land highway program administered by the Department of Transportation; and
- 80% shall be allocated for the repair and rehabilitation of assets for certain projects that are not eligible for funding under such programs, including historic assets, nonhistoric assets related to visitor access, health and safety, and recreation, and visitor facilities, water and utility systems, and employee housing.

BE IT RESOLVED, that NACPRO opposes the proposed fee increase until the National Park Service completes an economic and social impact analysis to evaluate the impact on low and moderate income persons, and state and county economies, and the impact of funds allocated through the National Park Service Legacy Act of 2017 has been determined.

BE IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the NACPRO requests to be an active participant in the National Park Service's review and analysis of impacts resulting from the proposed fee increases.