

Public Use Fee Schedule

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts and Structure



Entrance Fees for State Parks

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

TYPE	RESIDENT VEHICLE		NONRESIDENT VEHICLE		JUSTIFICATION
	CURRENT	PROPOSED	CURRENT	PROPOSED	
Daily Vehicle Entrance	\$0	\$0	\$8	\$10	CPI adjustment. Surrounding states range from \$7 to \$15 with avg. of \$12 per vehicle for nonresident.
Daily Individual Entrance (per individual on foot or bike)	\$0	\$0	\$4	\$5	Half of the vehicle entrance fee.
7-Day Vehicle Entrance	\$0	\$0	\$35	\$50	CPI adjustment.
Annual Vehicle Pass	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$70	CPI adjustment.



No changes to the fee structure for entrance fees to state parks.

Camping Fees for State Parks

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

TYPE	RESIDENT		RESIDENT (62 YEARS OR OLDER, DISABLED, OR A VETERAN)		NONRESIDENT		JUSTIFICATION
	CURRENT	PROPOSED	CURRENT	PROPOSED	CURRENT	PROPOSED	
Electrical Hookup Campsite	\$24 (\$18+\$6 elec. fee)	\$32 (\$24+\$8 elec. fee)	\$15 (\$9+\$6 elec. fee)	\$20 (\$12+\$8 elec. fee)	\$34 (\$28+\$6 elec. fee)	\$46 (\$38+\$8 elec. fee)	CPI adjustment for both camping and electric fee. Surrounding states range from \$20-32 for resident and \$28-84 for nonresidents.
Standard Campsite	\$18	\$24	\$9	\$12	\$28	\$38	CPI adjustment. Surrounding states range from \$10-24 for resident and \$15-68 for nonresidents.
Rustic Campsite	\$12	\$20	\$6	\$10	\$20	\$30	Aligned with camping fees for FAS, WMA, and WHPAs.
Hike/Bike Campsite (per person)	\$8	\$10	\$4	\$5	\$8	\$10	CPI adjustment.
Cabin, Yurt, or Wall Tent	\$54	\$70	\$54	\$70	\$66	\$90	CPI adjustment.
Large Yurt	\$60	\$80	\$60	\$80	\$72	\$100	CPI adjustment.
Tipi	\$30	\$40	\$30	\$40	\$42	\$60	CPI adjustment.



Camping Fees for State Parks

Proposed Changes to Fee Structure

- Changed from a peak/off-season rate structure to a single rate structure for the following reasons:
 - Simplify the fee structure
 - Minimal cost difference between peak season and off-season fees (e.g., \$4 for a resident standard campsite)
 - Minimal change in amenities between peak season and off-season (no water and fewer staff during off-season)
- No longer discounting camping for nonresidents with an annual vehicle entrance pass. The pass would continue to provide significant savings for nonresidents visiting Montana state parks for more than 7 days. This is consistent with the national park pass, which does not discount camping.



Amenity Fees for State Parks

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

TYPE	FEE		JUSTIFICATION
	CURRENT	PROPOSED	
Electric Fee	\$6	\$8	CPI adjustment
Boat Slip	\$6	\$8	CPI adjustment
Shower	\$3	\$3	No change because we have a token system.
Sewage Dump Station	\$5	\$10	Surrounding states charge \$5-10.
Corral Fee Per Animal	\$10	\$10	No change
Pet Fee Per Animal	\$0	\$10	This would add a fee for pets staying in cabins, yurts, wall tents, and tipis for additional cleaning.



No changes to the fee structure for amenity fees at state parks.

Cave Tour Fees

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

TYPE	CHILD 4 & UNDER		YOUTH 5 – 14 YEARS		ADULT 15+		JUSTIFICATION
	CURRENT	PROPOSED	CURRENT	PROPOSED	CURRENT	PROPOSED	
Classic Cave Tour	NA	NA	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$20	Based on CPI and other state parks with cave tours.
Paradise Tour	Free	\$5	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$20	Based on CPI and other state parks with cave tours.
Candlelight Tour	NA	NA	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30	Based on CPI and other state parks with cave tours.
Educational Group	\$4	\$5	\$8	\$10	\$12	\$15	Based on CPI and other state parks with cave tours.



Cave Tour Fees

Proposed Changes to Fee Structure

- Removed senior discount from the Paradise Tour to simplify.
- Removed the wild cave tour option because the park is not providing these tours.
- Made the Paradise Tour fee for a child consistent with the fee for an Educational Group.



Camping Fees for FAS, WMA, WHPAs

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

TYPE	RESIDENT		RESIDENT (62 YEARS OR OLDER, DISABLED, OR A VETERAN)		NONRESIDENT		JUSTIFICATION
	CURRENT	PROPOSED	CURRENT	PROPOSED	CURRENT	PROPOSED	
Standard Campsite	\$12 w/ MT fishing license \$18 w/o MT fishing license	\$20	\$5 w/ MT fishing license \$7.50 w/o MT fishing license	\$10	\$12 w/ MT fishing license \$18 w/o MT fishing license	\$30	Researched similar fees in surrounding states (\$16-\$30) and adjusted for an easier cash payment given most of these fees are paid manually via fee envelopes.



Camping Fees for FAS, WMA, WHPAs

Proposed Changes to Fee Structure

- The current structure for FAS's has fees for campers with a MT fishing license (\$12) and campers without a MT fishing license (\$18). The proposal is to restructure fees based on whether the camper is a resident or nonresident to align with the state park fee structure.
- Clarified camping fees for Wildlife Management Areas and Wildlife Habitat Protection Areas are for sites where standard campsites are available. No fees are required where designated dispersed camping is allowed.



Special Use Permit Fees for All Sites

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

TYPE	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	HALF DAY (1 – 4 HRS.)		FULL DAY (MORE THAN 4 HRS.)		JUSTIFICATION
		CURRENT	PROPOSED	CURRENT	PROPOSED	
Group Use or Facility Rental Fee	15 or Less	\$60	\$75	\$100	\$150	\$50 reduction from next category for full day. Half day is half of full day.
	16 - 30	\$60	\$100	\$100	\$200	\$50 reduction from next category for full day. Half day is half of full day.
	31 - 50	\$90	\$125	\$150	\$250	\$50 reduction from next category for full day. Half day is half of full day.
	51 - 75	\$120	\$150	\$200	\$300	\$50 reduction from next category for full day. Half day is half of full day.
	76 - 100	\$150	\$175	\$250	\$350	\$50 reduction from next category for full day. Half day is half of full day.
	More than 100	\$300	\$400	\$300	\$400	Last updated in 2020. CPI adjustment rounded up to the nearest hundred.
Facility Rental at Select Parks	NA	Same as above	\$125	Same as above	\$250	Aligns with amounts for 31 – 50 people under general group use and facility rental fees.
Special Recreation Permit for Organized Group Activity on the Blackfoot and Madison Rivers	NA	NA	NA	\$3 per person per day	\$4 per person per day	CPI adjustment.

Special Use Permit Fees for All Sites

Proposed Changes to Fee Structure

- Changed facility rental structure for Spring Meadow and Frenchtown Pond State Parks to have half day and full day rental options. These parks rely on the online reservation system, which can only accommodate number of people breakdowns for full days at this time. Given these parks are near urban areas, the ability to provide half day and full day rental options increases customer service.
- Added Special Recreation Permit fee for organized group activity on the Blackfoot and Madison Rivers that was previously in the FAS Annual Rule.



Other Fees for All FWP Sites

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

TYPE	FEE		JUSTIFICATION
	CURRENT	PROPOSED	
WMA Horse Fee (groups of 10 or more people)	\$3 per horse	\$3 per horse	No change
Firewood Cutting Permit	\$40 per cord	\$40 per cord	No change
FWP Hike, Tour, or Interpretive Program	\$4	\$5	CPI adjustment



No changes to the fee structure for these fees at all sites.

Reservation Fees for All Sites

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

TYPE	RESERVATION		MODIFICATION		EARLY CANCELLATION		JUSTIFICATION
	CURRENT	PROPOSED	CURRENT	PROPOSED	CURRENT	PROPOSED	
Campsite	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	No changes because administrative costs have not changed.
Group Campsite or Facility	\$25	\$25	\$10	\$10	\$50	\$50	No changes because administrative costs have not changed.
Tickets, Event Registration, and Daily Entry	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	No changes because administrative costs have not changed.



Commercial Use Fee Schedule

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts and Structure

Note: Commercial Use Permits require review and approval; payment of the fee does not guarantee permit issuance.



Guided Recreation Services

Previously titled “Service Provider”, it included “Outfitter”, “Guide”, “Water-based Service Provider”, and “Guided Tour or Trip (non-water-based)”

Description for New Use Type	Justification
Outfitted or guided angling services, or other water-based service providers that accompany clients onto waterbodies accessed via an FWP site; land-based guided tours, trips, or recreational rides that accompany clients in an FWP site.	Clarifies the types of commercial services covered by this category, whether the operator accompanies clients as part of the service, and whether the activity occurs on land or on a waterbody accessed through the site. Applies to both water-based or land-based guided services.



Guided Recreation Services: Water-based

(Only applies to FASes)

Description for New Use Type	Justification
<p>Outfitted or guided angling services, or water-based service providers that accompany clients onto water bodies accessed via Fishing Access Site (FAS).</p>	<p>As provided in ARM 12.14.125, outfitters, water-based service providers, guides, assistants, and other authorized personnel who accompany clients while conducting commercial use at Fishing Access Sites must possess a valid FAS Permit. FAS Permits authorize commercial use at Fishing Access Sites. The FAS permit applies specifically to water-based commercial activities distinct from land-based services at FASes.</p>



Guided Recreation Services: Land-based

(Only applies to FASes)

Description for New Use Type	Justification
Land-based guided tours, trips, or recreational rides that accompany clients in a Fishing Access Site (FAS).	Currently, this is listed as a guided tour or trip (non-water based). The proposed change to “Guided Recreation Services: Land-based” better distinguishes from “Guided Recreation Services: Water-based”.



Commercial Events

Previously titled “Special Events”

Description for New Type of Use

Commercial special events, competitions, races, training, research activities, or other organized activities for which participants pay a fee to participate.

**Event fees do not include ancillary commercial activities (i.e., vending) associated with the event; separate permits and fees apply.*

Justification

Clarifies the activities covered by this fee category, provides examples of eligible uses, specifies the fee applies only when participants pay for the activity or service, and notes that other commercial activities require separate authorization or fees.



Vending Services

Previously titled “concessions”, “vending”

Description for New Type of Use	Justification
Sale or provision of food, beverages, merchandise, souvenirs, firewood, clothing, entertainment, or related services.	Provides a clear description of the activities covered by this category and includes examples to help applicants and staff consistently determine when the fee applies. Creates consistency between vending service fees for state parks and other FWP sites. Removed concessions from this schedule because concession agreements and fees are administered through a separate contract process and are not subject to the commercial use fee structure (ARM 12.14.155).

Note: "Vending" and "Equipment & Facility Services" are not recognized as authorized categories of commercial use on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). These activities are inconsistent with the intended purpose and management objectives of WMAs and are not among the commercial uses authorized under the 2008 WMA Commercial Use Plan. Therefore, these categories are not included in the commercial use types at WMAs.



Equipment & Facility Services

Previously “watercraft delivery/livery, rental or demonstration”

Description for New Type of Use	Justification
Delivery, demonstration or on-site rental for facilities, equipment, or recreational gear.	Provides a clear description of the activities covered by this category and includes examples to help applicants and staff consistently determine when the fee applies. Clarifies that rentals are provided “on-site”.

Note: "Vending" and "Equipment & Facility Services" are not recognized as authorized categories of commercial use on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). These activities are inconsistent with the intended purpose and management objectives of WMAs and are not among the commercial uses authorized under the 2008 WMA Commercial Use Plan. Therefore, these categories are not included in the commercial use types at WMAs.



Photography & Filming

Previously titled “Still Photography and Filming”

Description for New Type of Use	Justification
Photography or filming activities involving 1 - 5 persons	Simplifies the fee structure from five tiers to three, bases fees on total group size rather than “crew size”, retains the annual flat-rate permit option for smaller operators, and continues additional daily fees for larger productions. Definitions of “crew,” “client,” and “model” are removed and replaced with “person” to eliminate the need to distinguish between staff and clients since it is all one service.
Photography or filming activities involving 6 - 19 persons	
Large photography or filming productions of 20 or more persons	



Non-service or Consumptive Use

Description for Type of Use	Justification
Commercial promotional activity, dock use, material staging, maintenance, repair, or construction support.	Provides a clear description of the activities covered by this category and includes examples to help applicants and staff consistently determine when the fee applies. Fee is tiered according to the extent of site closure needed for the activity.

Late Fee

Description for Type of Use	Justification
Additional fee applied when fees for permitted commercial use are not submitted to the department by the specified due date.	The late fee is intended to encourage timely payment of commercial use fees and to offset the additional administrative time and resources required to track, notify, and process overdue payments.

Note: Proposing to remove the "**Rush Permit Fee**" that was previously in the Commercial Use Fees for State Parks to clarify that applications submitted fewer than 45 days before the proposed activity are not eligible for expedited processing and may be denied due to insufficient review time. This change reinforces the 45-day application requirement.



Commercial Use Fees for State Parks

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

Type	Current	Proposed	Justification
Guided Recreation Services	\$5 per client day	\$8 per client per day	CPI adjustment.
Commercial Events	A) \$3/ event participant; or B) \$300 per event	\$8 per participant per day	CPI adjustment, matches other fees applied per person.
Vending Services	A) Half Day (up to 4 hours) \$50 B) Full Day (more than 4 hours) \$100	\$150 per day	CPI adjustment at full day use rate. Half day option no longer offered.
Equipment & Facility Services	\$150 per year	\$250 per year	CPI adjustment.



Commercial Use Fees for State Parks

(continued)

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

Type	Current	Proposed	Justification
Photography / Filming	1 person: \$25/day or \$50/year	1 - 5 persons: \$45/day or \$300/year	CPI adjustment for flat rate (1-5 persons), moved from 5 to 3 tiers to simplify, and changed to a per person rate of \$8 to align with other per person rates (e.g., commercial events).
	2 - 3 person crew: \$25/day or \$50/year	6 - 19 persons: \$8 per person per day	
	4 - 7 person crew: \$50/day	Large productions of 20 or more persons: \$8 per person per day (plus \$1,500 additional fee per day)	
	8 - 20 person crew: \$200/day		
	21 or more person crew: \$500 for first day, \$1,000 per additional day		
Non-service or Consumptive Use	\$50 - \$1000 per day	\$75 per day (No site closure)	CPI adjustment. Fee is tiered according to the extent of site closure needed for the proposed use.
		\$800 per day (Partial site closure)	
		\$1,500 per day (Full site closure)	



Commercial Use Fees for Fishing Access Sites (FAS)

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

Type	Current	Proposed	Justification
Guided Recreation Services: Water-based	Daily FAS Permit: \$15/day Annual FAS Permit: \$100/year	Daily FAS Permit: \$25 per day Annual FAS Permit: \$150 per year	CPI adjustment.
Guided Recreation Services: Land-based	\$5 per client day	\$8 per client per day	CPI adjustment and matches other fees applied per person.
Commercial Events	\$3 per event participant	\$8 per participant per day	CPI adjustment and matches other fees applied per person.
Vending Services	Department discretionary authority.	\$150 per day	Previously a discretionary applied fee. Aligns with the state parks vending service fee CPI adjustment. While vending is generally not authorized at FASes, the fee would be for limited circumstances in which it may be approved.



Commercial Use Fees for Fishing Access Sites (FAS)

(continued)

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

Type	Current	Proposed	Justification
Equipment & Facility Services	\$100 per year	\$250 per year	Aligns with the State Parks fee for the same service, including CPI adjustment.
Photography / Filming	1 person: \$25/day or \$50/year	1 - 5 persons: \$45/day or \$300/year	CPI adjustment for flat rate (1-5 persons), moved from 5 to 3 tiers to simplify, and changed to a per person rate of \$8 to align with other per person rates (e.g., commercial events).
	2 - 3 person crew: \$25/day or \$50/year	6 - 19 persons: \$8 per person per day	
	4 - 7 person crew: \$50/day	Large productions of 20 or more persons: \$8 per person per day (plus \$1,500 additional fee per day)	
	8 - 20 person crew: \$200/day		
	21 or more person crew: \$500 for first day, \$1,000 per additional day		
Non-service or Consumptive Use	\$50 - \$1000 per day	\$75 per day (No site closure)	CPI adjustment. Fee is tiered according to the extent of site closure needed for the proposed use.
		\$800 per day (Partial site closure)	
		\$1,500 per day (Full site closure)	



Commercial Use Fees for WMAs

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

Type	Current	Proposed	Justification
Guided Recreation Services	\$5 per client day	\$8 per client per day	CPI adjustment.
Commercial Events	\$3 per event participant	\$8 per participant per day	CPI adjustment, matches other fees applied for per person.
Photography / Filming	1 person: \$25/day or \$50/year	1 - 5 persons: \$45/day or \$300/year	CPI adjustment for flat rate (1-5 persons), moved from 5 to 3 tiers to simplify, and changed to a per person rate of \$8 to align with other per person rates (e.g., commercial events).
	2 - 3 person crew: \$25/day or \$50/year	6 - 19 persons: \$8 per person per day	
	4 - 7 person crew: \$50/day	Large productions of 20 or more persons: \$8 per person per day (plus \$1,500 additional fee per day)	
	8 - 20 person crew: \$200/day		
	21 or more person crew: \$500 for first day, \$1,000 per additional day		
Non-service or Consumptive Use	\$50 - \$1000 per day	\$75 per day (No site closure)	CPI adjustment. Fee is tiered according to the extent of site closure needed for the proposed use.
		\$800 per day (Partial site closure)	
		\$1,500 per day (Full site closure)	



Other/Additional Fees for All Site Types

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

Type	Current	Proposed	Justification
Late Fee	\$100	\$150	CPI adjustment.



Commercial Use Fees for Restricted Waterbodies/Rivers

Proposed Changes to Fee Amounts

Waterbody	Current	Proposed	Justification
Bitterroot (Upper) - West Fork	No fee	3% Gross revenue \$130 minimum fee	Adding a fee to cover administrative cost (reviewing applications and use reports, issuing permits and boat tags, coordinating with enforcement staff, and corresponding with permittees). Establishes a minimum fee consistent with other restricted rivers and federal fee standards.
Beaverhead	\$4 per allocated client day	3% Gross revenue \$130 minimum fee	Changing from amount per allocated client day to percent gross revenue to align with other rivers and increase revenue for administering permits. Establishes a minimum fee consistent with other restricted rivers and federal fee standards.
Big Hole	\$4 per allocated client day	3% Gross revenue \$130 minimum fee	Changing from amount per allocated client day to percent gross revenue to align with other rivers and increase revenue for administering permits. Establishes a minimum fee consistent with other restricted rivers and federal fee standards.
Blackfoot	3% Gross revenue \$130 minimum fee	3% Gross revenue \$130 minimum fee	No proposed changes, minimum fee was recently increased by \$15 in 2025.
Clark Fork - Alberton Gorge	3% Gross revenue No minimum fee	3% Gross revenue \$130 minimum fee	Establishes a minimum fee consistent with other restricted rivers and federal fee standards.
Madison	3% Gross revenue \$130 minimum fee	3% Gross revenue \$130 minimum fee	No proposed changes, minimum fee was recently increased by \$15 in 2025.
Smith	\$200 Per float trip \$25 Per staff \$110 Per client	\$200 per float trip \$25 per staff \$110 per client	No change because these fees are established through the Smith River Biennial Rule. The fees are in this schedule for reference.



Other Proposed Changes for Restricted Rivers

- Moved fee for Special Recreation Permit for non-commercial organized groups on the Blackfoot and Madison Rivers to the Public Use Fee Schedule.
- Clarified the fee for commercial competitive events on the Blackfoot and Madison Rivers is the same fee as for commercial events (\$8 per participant per day).
- Moved group size limitations for organized and commercial groups on the Blackfoot River to Special Recreation Permit application materials since these limitations are not related to fees. The rules for the Blackfoot River state the department shall base permit decisions on “conformance with maximum group size requirements identified in the department’s environmental assessment decision notice and the department’s parks division biennial fee rule”. FWP will list group size limitations in application materials and reference the environmental assessment decision notice. Additionally, FWP will propose an update to administrative rules to remove the reference to the parks division biennial fee rule.
- Moved the special regulations for the Alberton Gorge to a footnote below the Restricted Waterbodies/Rivers table. These special regulations belong in the administrative rules so FWP will propose this addition.

