



The High Cost of a Park Giveaway: What It Means for Arizona

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President Trump's plan to transfer national parks to state control would devastate Arizona's economy, overwhelm its budget, and dismantle the systems that keep public lands running.

Here's what Arizona stands to lose:

\$2 Billion in Economic Output

In 2023, 10.8 million visitors to Arizona's national parks spent an estimated \$1.2 billion, supporting:

- 17,300 jobs
- \$684 million in labor income
- \$2 billion in economic output

Reduced visitation from degraded services, lost NPS branding, and higher state fees would hit small businesses and rural economies hard.

\$1.5 Billion in Deferred Maintenance

Arizona's national parks face a \$1.5 billion maintenance backlog, including \$567 million for park units outside Grand Canyon National Park. Under state control, Arizona would inherit this cost without access to federal repair funding like the \$1.3 billion per year from the Great American Outdoors Act.

\$22+ Million in Annual Operating Costs

In 2024, national parks in Arizona (excluding major sites like Grand Canyon and Saguaro) required over \$22 million in federal appropriations to operate. Arizona's state park budget generated \$21.9 million in user fees but had to raise its annual pass to \$200 just to stay afloat. To manage both state and national park properties, Arizona would likely need to double its annual pass cost to \$400.

Over 930 New State Employees Needed

Arizona would need to add 933 employees to match current NPS staffing levels.