



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

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

Here's what Georgia stands to lose:

\$2 Billion in Economic Output

In 2023, 6.8 million visitors to Georgia's national parks spent an estimated \$404 million, supporting:

- 5,740 jobs
- \$203 million in labor income
- \$605 million in economic output

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

\$134 Million in Deferred Maintenance

Georgia's national parks face a \$134 million maintenance backlog, including \$47 million in the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Under state control, Georgia would inherit this cost without access to federal repair funding like the \$1.3 billion per year from the Great American Outdoors Act.

Millions in Annual Operating Costs

Georgia funds state parks with a combination of usage fees, state appropriations, and federal grants like the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Under state control, Georgia would have to increase entrance fees, take the money out of state budgets, or close parks.

143 New State Employees Needed

Georgia would need to hire approximately 143 new employees to match current NPS staffing levels.