



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

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

Here's what Michigan stands to lose:

\$413 million in Economic Output

In 2023, 2.8 million visitors to Michigan's national parks spent an estimated \$273 million, supporting:

- 3,700 jobs
- \$139 million in labor income
- \$413 million in economic output

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

\$158 Million in Deferred Maintenance

Michigan's national parks face a \$158 million maintenance backlog, including \$79 million for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Under state control, Michigan 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

97% of Michigan's state park operations are funded through user fees from activities like fishing and camping. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore currently collects a \$25 entrance fee, which would have to increase to \$65 to make up for the lost money from the National Park Service budget. Under state control, Michigan would have to increase user fees across units, take the money out of state budgets, or close parks.

110 New State Employees Needed

Michigan would need to hire approximately 110 new employees to match current NPS staffing levels.