



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

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

Here's what New Jersey stands to lose:

\$286 Million in Economic Output

In 2023, 5.2 million visitors to New Jersey's national parks spent an estimated \$193 million, supporting:

- 2,490 jobs
- \$116 million in labor income
- \$286 million in economic output

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

\$569 Million in Deferred Maintenance

New Jersey's national parks face a \$569 million maintenance backlog, including a portion of the \$272 million at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Under state control, New Jersey 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

New Jersey funds state parks with a combination of state and federal resources, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Under state control, New Jersey would have to increase entrance fees, take the money out of state budgets, or close parks.

160 New State Employees Needed

New Jersey would need to hire approximately 160 new employees to match current NPS staffing levels.