



## **The High Cost of a Park Giveaway: What It Means for Texas**

July 16, 2025

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

Here's what Texas stands to lose:

### **\$488 million in Economic Output**

In 2023, 5.3 million visitors to national parks in Texas spent an estimated \$323 million, supporting:

- 4,460 jobs
- \$172 million in labor income
- \$488 million in economic output

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

### **\$436 Million in Deferred Maintenance**

National parks in Texas face a \$436 million maintenance backlog, including over \$250 million for park units outside Big Bend National Park. Under state control, Texas 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**

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

### **Over 390 New State Employees Needed**

Texas would need to hire approximately 394 new employees to match current NPS staffing levels.