



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

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

Here's what Wisconsin stands to lose:

\$93 million in Economic Output

In 2023, 650,000 visitors to Wisconsin's national parks spent an estimated \$64.6 million, supporting:

- 929 jobs
- \$31.1 million in labor income
- \$93 million in economic output

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

\$62 Million in Deferred Maintenance

Wisconsin's national parks face a \$62 million maintenance backlog, including \$17 million associated with the Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway. Under state control, Wisconsin 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

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

50 New State Employees Needed

Wisconsin would need to hire approximately 50 new employees to match current NPS staffing levels.