

COMMITTEE REPORT
HOUSE

3/28

Rules

(11)

FURTHER:

3/19/84

Date: 3/27/84

The Committee on FINANCE has had HB 486

"An Act authorizing fees for the use of state park facilities;
and providing for an effective date."

under consideration and recommends:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for HB 486 (Fin) same title
 new title
- and recommends Individual Recommendations sup 115
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" ^{NEW} Fiscal Note 2/3/84
- reports it back without recommendation Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

R Buttsworth

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Paul J. Zhardt (No Rec)

Jerry Ward (No Rec)

MILTON H. FRITZ (NO REC)

W F Funnell NO Rec

Tom Martin " "

acting R Buttsworth
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: 3/16/84

REQUEST (915)
Bill/Resolution No.: CS For HB 486
Title: State Park Facility Fees

FISCAL DETAIL
Agency Affected: Natural Resources
Program Category Affected: NRM&EC

Sponsor: Bettisworth
Requestor:
Date of Request: 2/2/84

BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected:
Parks, Park Management/Operations

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
100 PERSONAL SERVICES		13.5	14.0	14.6	15.2	15.8
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL		3.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
400 SUPPLIES		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
500 EQUIPMENT		3.0				
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		21.0	20.0	20.6	21.2	21.8
CAPITAL		35.7	17.9	17.9	-0-	-0-
REVENUE		200.0	210.0	231.0	254.1	280.0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		56.7	37.9	38.5	21.2	21.8
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		56.7	37.9	38.5	21.2	21.8

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME		1	1	1	1	1
TEMPORARY						

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: Al Meiners/Mike Lee/Mary Halloran Phone: 265-4506, 465-2407
Division: Parks/Management Date: 2/2/84

Approved by Commissioner: William D. Amundson, Deputy Date: 2/3/84
Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

12/1/83

Analysis of Fiscal Note

100 Accounting Clerk ($\frac{1}{2}$ time), in Division of Management, Anchorage, to handle accounting for fees collected under this program.

300,400 Design and production of payment envelopes and purchase of supplies for accounting, etc.

500 Three safes to hold funds collected under this program, one each in the Kenai area, the Mat-Su area and the Ketchikan area..

Capital: Cost of Iron Rangers to use for fee collection.

Original sponsor: Battisworth

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 486 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to fees for the use of certain state
7 park facilities; and providing for an effective
8 date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 41.21 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 Sec. 41.21.021. FEES FOR THE USE OF RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL
12 FACILITIES. (a) The department may establish and collect fees for
13 the use of public use cabins, campsites developed under (b) of this
14 section, and guided tours of historical sites. In adopting fees under
15 this section, the department shall consider:

16 (1) the cost to the state of operating the facility;

17 (2) fees charged for the use of a similar facility by the
18 private sector;

19 (3) the cost of administering a fee collection program at
20 the facility; and

21 (4) the public interest.

22 (b) The department may collect campsite user fees within a state
23 park for the use of a campsite if the campground has been constructed
24 with

25 (1) a safe water supply;

26 (2) individual tables and fireplaces;

27 (3) a road system with well-defined individual or clustered
28 campsites; and

29 (4) sealed vault or flush fixture sanitary facilities.

1 (c) The department may collect a campsite user fee within the
2 following state parks and other state parks if the state park meets
3 the standards established in (b) of this section: Eagle River, Bird
4 Creek, and Eklutna Lake Campgrounds in Chugach State Park, South Rolly
5 Campground in Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, Byers Lake Campground
6 in Denali State Park; and campgrounds within Johnson Lake State Recre-
7 ation Area, Minilchik State Recreation Area, Chilkat State Park, Chil-
8 koot State Recreation Site, Dry Creek State Recreation Site, Eagle
9 Trail State Recreation Site, Chena State Recreation Site, Settlers
10 Cove State Recreation Site, Quartz Lake State Recreation Area, Harding
11 Lake State Recreation Area, King Mountain State Recreation Site, Izaak
12 Walton State Recreation Site, Morgan's Landing State Recreation Area,
13 and Zuskin River State Recreation Site.

14 (d) The department shall submit a report to the legislature
15 within the first 10 days of a regular session of the legislature that
16 indicates the revenue generated, the cost of administering the fees,
17 and public comments on the fees.

18 * Sec. 2. AS 28.10.411(e) is repealed.

19 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
20 10.070(c).

Alaska State Legislature



POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811

REPRESENTATIVE
ROBERT H. "BOB" BETTISWORTH

211 CUSHMAN STREET
FARBANKS, ALASKA 99701

March 26, 1984

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Rep. Al Adams, Chairman, House Finance Committee and committee members

From: Rep. Bob Bettisworth

RHB

Subject: HB486, 'An Act relating to fees for the use of certain state park facilities;'

In response to suggestions from the Department of Natural Resources and discussions with other interested legislators I have caused a Finance CS to be drafted. This bill preserves virtually intact the bill passed out by the House Labor and Commerce Committee but adds additional criteria for imposition of campsite fees.

Sectional Analysis:

Section 1: DNR may set up a fee structure for campsites, public cabins and historical sites. The department must consider certain factors when adopting a fee structure. Criteria for charging a campsite user fee are listed including two additional requirements (individual tables and fireplaces and sanitary facilities) that were not included in the Labor and Commerce version. Specific park units where campsite fees would be immediately authorized are listed and a mechanism for additional park units being authorized for campsite fees is provided if all criteria are met.

Section 2: Repeals an inconsistent motor vehicle statute currently on the books that would allow those paying for Alaska vehicle registration to avoid a fee authorized in this legislation. This would put all park users, resident or non-resident, in the same position.

Section 3: Immediate effective date.

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

M E M O R A N D U M

March 26, 1984

SUBJECT: User fees in state parks (CSHB 486(Finance))
TO: Representative Al Adams
Chairman, House Finance Committee
FROM: Richard A. Bradley
Legislative Counsel B

Louann Cutler has requested a committee substitute for HB 486, a bill permitting certain user fees in state parks.

I suggest that you consider deleting subsection (c) of the bill; as the bill has evolved, it has become unnecessary to the substantive law. The provisions of (b) as drafted determine which parks are eligible for application of the user fees.

Alternatively, I suggest that the provisions of (c) be recast as temporary law [or perhaps as a legislative intent section] to avoid the necessity for the inclusion of the subsection in permanent law.

The term "state park" is defined in AS 38.04.910(8) (as amended in ch. 6, SLA 1984) as:

(8) "state park" means an area of state land designated by law to be managed for public use and enjoyment of recreational, scenic, cultural, historical, wilderness, and similar values, and includes roadside rests and recreational beaches, state monuments and historic sites, state recreation areas and state parks, including marine parks. [Emphasis added.]

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

RAB:ojb
J5/011

title fee required under § 441 of this chapter, the department shall issue a new certificate of title. (§ 7 ch 178 SLA 1978)

Article 5. Fees and Charges.

Section

411. Registration fees levied

421. Registration fee rates

Section

431. Annual motor vehicle registration tax

441. Schedule of other fees and charges

Sec. 28.10.411. Registration fees levied. (a) For every year during any part of which a vehicle is subject to registration under this chapter, a registration fee shall be paid to the department at the time of original registration and at each annual renewal of registration after that time.

(b) Motor carrier and bus transportation fees paid on vehicles subject to the Alaska Motor Freight Carrier Act (AS 42.10) and the Alaska Bus Act (AS 42.15) shall be paid to the department at the same time the registration fee is paid.

(c) A resident 65 years of age or older is entitled to an exemption from tax under this section for one motor vehicle subject to registration. No exemption may be granted except upon written application for the exemption on a form prescribed by the department.

(d) The Department of Community and Regional Affairs shall pay to the borough and to the city in which a person who is granted an exemption under (c) of this section resides an amount equal to the tax levied under § 431(b) of this chapter regardless of whether the borough or city is eligible for the tax levied under that section.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the fees paid for registering a vehicle under § 421(b)(1), (2), (5), (6) or (d) of this chapter shall include all fees required for entry into and use of a state park or campground. (§ 7 ch 178 SLA 1978)

Sec. 28.10.421. Registration fee rates. (a) Unless otherwise provided by law, the fees prescribed in this section shall be paid to the department at the times provided under §§ 101—111 of this chapter.

(b) The annual registration fees under this subsection are imposed within the following classifications for:

- (1) a passenger vehicle or motor home not used or maintained for the transportation of persons or property for hire or for other commercial use \$30;
- (2) a pick-up truck or a van not exceeding 6,000 pounds unladen weight and not used or maintained for the transportation of persons or property for hire or for other commercial use \$35;
- (3) a taxicab \$65;
- (4) a motor bus with a seating capacity for 20 or more persons and used exclusively for commercial purposes in the transporting of visitors or tourists \$80;
- (5) a motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle \$15;

it shall issue

registration tax
and charges

year during
this chapter,
of original
er that time.
icles subject
Alaska Bus
me time the

emption from
istration. No
ation for the

shall pay to
granted an
ial to the tax
the borough

ees paid for
this chapter
state park or

wise provided
e department

are imposed

tained for the
r commercial
..... \$30;
unds unladen
of persons or
..... \$35;
..... \$65;
e persons and
ing of visitors
..... \$80;
..... \$15;

(6) a two- or four-wheeled trailer not used or maintained for the transportation of persons or property for hire or for other commercial use, including, but not limited to, a boat trailer, baggage trailer, box trailer, utility trailer or house trailer \$ 5.

(c) The annual registration fees under this subsection are imposed and are based upon the actual unladen weight as established by the manufacturer's advertised weight or upon the actual weight which the owner shall furnish, subject to the approval of the commissioner or his representative, for a vehicle, including a motor vehicle pulling a trailer or semi-trailer, used or maintained for the transportation of passengers for hire, excepting taxicabs and buses under (b) of this section, or for the transportation of property for hire or for other commercial use, including a commercial vehicle such as a trailer, semi-trailer, truck, wrecker, tow car, hearse, ambulance, and tractor, as follows:

- (1) up to and including 5,000 pounds \$45;
- (2) more than 5,000 pounds to and including 12,000 pounds .. \$80;
- (3) more than 12,000 pounds to and including 18,000 pounds .. \$150;
- (4) more than 18,000 pounds \$215.

(d) The special registration fees under this subsection are imposed annually, unless otherwise specified, for:

- (1) an historic vehicle (one time only upon initial registration under § 181 of this chapter) \$10;
- (2) special request plates \$20;
plus the fee required for that vehicle under (b)(1) or (2) of this section;
- (3) a vehicle owned by a disabled veteran or other handicapped person, and registered under § 181 of this chapter or a resident 65 years of age or older who complies with § 411(c) of this chapter none;
- (4) a vehicle owned by the state none;
- (5) a vehicle owned by an elected state official the fee required for that vehicle under (b) of this section;
- (6) a vehicle owned by a consular officer, unless waived under § 181 of this chapter \$30;
- (7) a vehicle owned by a rancher, farmer, or dairyman and registered under § 181 of this chapter \$30;
- (8) a snowmobile or off-highway vehicle \$ 5;
- (9) an amateur mobile radio station vehicle,
 - (A) with a transceiver capable of less than 5-band operation
..... the fee required for that vehicle under (b) or (c) of this section;
 - (B) in recognition of his service to the public: a mobile amateur radio station owned by an amateur with general class or higher license, provided the station must be satisfactorily proved capable of operating on at least five bands between 160 through 10 meters, must have an antenna, and must have a power supply and wiring as a permanent part of the vehicle; the transmitting unit may be removed from the car for service or dry storage none for a mobile amateur radio station vehicle included in b(1) or (2) of this section;

PROPOSED ALASKA STATE PARK CAMPGROUND FEES: A PROGRAM TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES

-HOW AND WHY-



PREPARED BY: NEIL C. JOHANNSEN, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

AS AN INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON HB 486 AS INTRODUCED
BY THE HONORABLE ROBERT BETTISWORTH, ALASKA HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

1984

 Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Proposed Alaska State Park Campground Fees:
A Program to Reduce Government Subsidies

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
Fees in Alaska State Parks: Questions & Answers	1
HB 486 (Bettisworth)	3
HB 486 Bill Analysis by DNR	4
HB 486 Fiscal Note	5
1978 Statute Prohibiting Park Fees for Alaska Residents	6
Potential First Year Revenues (Limited Program)	7
Camping Fee Schedule: Alaska State Parks	8
Camping Fee Schedule & Revenues: Western U.S.	9
Article on Self Registration Fee Program	10
Typical Fee Envelope Depository	11
Typical Fee Payment Instruction Sign	13
Typical Fee Envelope	14
Draft Alaska State Park System User Fee Policies	15

Fees in Alaska State Parks

How long have fees for recreation been charged?

Of the 50 state park systems in the United States, Alaska stands alone in not levying any entry or user fees for its facilities. Within Alaska, the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Municipal campgrounds and (obviously) private campgrounds have fees. Alaska State Parks' 3,000 campsites are free.

Fee collection in National Parks was instituted over 50 years ago by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Years later, in 1951, the U.S. Congress passed legislation requiring that facilities providing "service, benefit or privilege should be self-sustaining to the full extent possible". In 1964 Congress passed legislation specifically calling for recreation user fees as part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. Since 1964 federal acts dealing with user fees have been constantly updated.

Most state and federal parks capture a portion of park and recreation area operation and maintenance costs nationwide.

Has Alaska State Parks ever charged user fees for recreation?

Yes. Through the Alaska Administrative Code (11 AAC 12.310) fees are authorized. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation utilized an annual \$10.00 entrance fee. Individuals were given a decal that could be affixed to a vehicle allowing access for the entire year. On occasion fees have been charged by park concessionaires for boat rentals and other services.

When was the fee stopped?

The fee was stopped by the passage of a somewhat obscure piece of legislation in a body of law dealing primarily with motor vehicles in 1978. AS 28.10.411(e) said if you have an Alaska license plate on your car, you do not have to pay fees for use of a state park or campground.

Why should we charge fees again?

Times have changed. In 1978 Alaska was in the beginning of a period of record high government spending. Today the tables are turned. Revenue is tight and it will continue to decline. Also, research has shown that vandalism is reduced in campgrounds where fees are charged.

How do people react to user fees and will they pay?

Surprisingly, more than half of campground users will normally pay without hesitation. In British Columbia up to 80% compliance has been recorded. With limited staff contact they experienced 96% compliance from users.

Even closer to home, here in Alaska, the U.S. Forest Service charges campground fees of \$5.00 per night. Their program gets 77% user compliance and up to 92% user compliance when campground hosts (volunteers) are used.

What method would Alaska State Parks use to charge fees and is it really worth it?

Research tells us that "iron rangers" appear to be the most practical method. The iron ranger is essentially a self-registration station that is virtually theft and vandal proof. Staff time needed to operate it is very limited, installation is cheap, maintenance is minimal and user compliance elsewhere with this system is good to excellent. By using Campground Hosts (Volunteers in Parks) to contact campers, we expect to increase user compliance and understanding of the fee system.

Exactly what kind of fees would be charged?

Only overnight camping fees at selected well-developed campgrounds and a tour fee for the House of Wickersham. People who overnight in parks utilize the full range of facilities provided and logically should pay to help defray the costs of operating and maintaining the campgrounds. The House of Wickersham, a non-profit foundation, is envisioned which would support its existence through tour fees. Fees charged by park concessionaires would be established on an individual basis.

How much revenue do other states generate and what could Alaska expect to earn?

The more heavily populated states like California and Michigan collect \$26,000,000 and \$10,000,000 annually. Over 15 other states earn over \$1,000,000 and 33 states generate over \$500,000 each year. Preliminary analysis allows us to predict first year revenues of \$200,000. Usually revenue goes up after the first year.

Exactly how much will our campers pay?

The fee per night per campsite will be six or eight dollars. Rates will be structured with higher fees for campgrounds with the most amenities/services. Most of the small, remote and rustic vehicle campgrounds will remain free.

What do Alaska's private campground operators think of the idea?

Each operator we have contacted favors the idea. Private operators have long felt free state campgrounds constituted unfair competition.

Introduced: 1/9/84
Referred: Resources and
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BETTISWORTH

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 486

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act authorizing fees for the use of state park
facilities; and providing for an effective date."

7

8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9

* Section 1. AS 41.21 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10

Sec. 41.21.021. FEES FOR THE USE OF RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL

11

FACILITIES. (a) The department may establish and collect fees for

12

the use of recreational and educational facilities established under

13

this chapter. In adopting fees for the use of recreational or educa-

14

tional facilities, the department shall consider:

15

(1) the cost to the state of operating the facility;

16

(2) fees charged for the use of a similar facility by the

17

private sector;

18

(3) the cost of administering a fee collection program at

19

the facility; and

20

(4) the public interest.

21

(b) The department shall submit a report to the legislature

22

within the first 10 days of a regular session of the legislature that

23

indicates the revenue generated, the cost of administering the fees,

24

and public comments on the fees.

25

* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-

26

10.070(c).



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

Department Natural Resources	Sponsor (Print Name) Rep. Bettisworth	Bill Number HB 486
Department Position Support with amendment noted below		
Division Director <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 1/31/84	Commissioner Date
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE USE		
Comments:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Position Noted	By	Date

SUMMARY

1. a) Related Bills (Similar or Conflicting) none	1. b) Other Agencies Affected by Bill Revenue, Commerce & Econ. Devel. - (Tourism)
2. a) Organizational Support for Bill Private campground operators	2. b) Organizational Opposition to Bill none known

3. Program Effects of Bill
The bill seeks to establish a system of user fees for facilities located in units of the state park system. Rates charged are to be based on state cost of operating a facility, fees charged by the private sector for similar facilities, cost of administering fee program and the public interest. Program is estimated to generate \$200,000 in revenues to the state in the first year and increase at a 10%-15% rate for the next several years as compliance improves and park system visitation increases. Fees will be from \$3.00 to \$8.00 for camp per night depending on level of service and amenities. Other fees will be charged for use of historic buildings and by future park concessionaires for use of their facilities and services. Volunteers and existing staff to admin. program.

4. Fiscal Impact: None Fiscal Note Attached

5. Amendments Proposed:
The bill should be amended to repeal AS.28.10.411 (e). This statute states that fees paid for registering a vehicle in Alaska shall include all fees required for entry into and use of a state park or campground. The effect of this law is to prevent the state from charging to Alaskans. This law was passed in 1978 and effectively resulted in the elimination of previous \$10 state park annual entry permit. A non-resident only program would likely not be worth the cost of administering it and may run into constitutional law problems.

6. Comments:

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 486
 Title: State Park Facility Fees
 Sponsor: Rep. Bettisworth
 Requestor: _____
 Date of Request: 1/31/84

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Natural Resources
 Program Category Affected: NRM&EC
 BRU, Program of Subprogram(s) Affected: Parks, Park Management/Operations

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES		13.5	14.0	14.6	15.2	15.8
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL		3.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
400 COMMODITIES		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC						
TOTAL OPERATING		18.0	20.0	20.6	21.2	21.8
CAPITAL		35.7	17.9	17.9	-0-	-0-
REVENUE		200.0	210.0	231.0	254.1	280.0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		53.7	37.9	38.5	21.2	21.8
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						
TOTAL		53.7	37.9	38.5	21.2	21.8

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME		1	1	1	1	1
TEMPORARY						
TOTAL		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

III. SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

IV. ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for any Analysis

Prepared By: Alan Meiners/Mike Lee/Mary Halloran Phone: (907) 265-4506
 Division: Parks/Management Date: 1/31/84
 Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
 Department: Natural Resources

Distribution:

Original to Legislative Finance
 Copy to Office of Management and Budget (for Legislature introduced bills)
 Copy to Department (for Governor introduced bills)
 Copy to Sponsor
 Copy to Requestor (if different from Sponsor)

9/14/83

IV. ANALYSIS

User Fees are the rule in every state park system in the nation except Alaska. The initiation of this proposed fee system would cost approximately \$35,700 in the first year for the installation of "iron rangers" at fee payment stations at the entrances to campgrounds. \$4,500 is required for the acquisition of payment envelopes. No new staff will be required. Campground hosts (volunteers) will be used to encourage compliance with the program. Existing park rangers will collect the fee envelopes and deal with persons failing to pay the fee. Existing district office and state office staff will handle accounting of the funds.

The comparative cost in the initial year is higher due to start-up costs associated with establishing the fee stations. In subsequent years this cost will be for the establishment of seven new fee stations at existing campgrounds in the second and third years. After that, the cost of the fee collection will be included in the costs of new or rehabilitated campgrounds.

An annual increase in revenues from increased visitation, and improved compliance is estimated at 10 to 15%.

A part-time accounting clerk will be needed in DNR's Division of Management to assist the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in accounting for user fees collected throughout the state.

title fee required under § 441 of this chapter, the department shall issue a new certificate of title. (§ 7 ch 178 SLA 1978)

Article 5. Fees and Charges.

Section
411. Registration fees levied
421. Registration fee rates

Section
431. Annual motor vehicle registration tax
441. Schedule of other fees and charges

Sec. 28.10.411. Registration fees levied. (a) For every year during any part of which a vehicle is subject to registration under this chapter, a registration fee shall be paid to the department at the time of original registration and at each annual renewal of registration after that time.

(b) Motor carrier and bus transportation fees paid on vehicles subject to the Alaska Motor Freight Carrier Act (AS 42.10) and the Alaska Bus Act (AS 42.15) shall be paid to the department at the same time the registration fee is paid.

(c) A resident 65 years of age or older is entitled to an exemption from tax under this section for one motor vehicle subject to registration. No exemption may be granted except upon written application for the exemption on a form prescribed by the department.

(d) The Department of Community and Regional Affairs shall pay to the borough and to the city in which a person who is granted an exemption under (c) of this section resides an amount equal to the tax levied under § 431(b) of this chapter regardless of whether the borough or city is eligible for the tax levied under that section.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the fees paid for registering a vehicle under § 421(b)(1), (2), (5), (6) or (d) of this chapter shall include all fees required for entry into and use of a state park or campground. (§ 7 ch 178 SLA 1978)



Sec. 28.10.421. Registration fee rates. (a) Unless otherwise provided by law, the fees prescribed in this section shall be paid to the department at the times provided under §§ 101—111 of this chapter.

(b) The annual registration fees under this subsection are imposed within the following classifications for:

- (1) a passenger vehicle or motor home not used or maintained for the transportation of persons or property for hire or for other commercial use \$30;
- (2) a pick-up truck or a van not exceeding 6,000 pounds unladen weight and not used or maintained for the transportation of persons or property for hire or for other commercial use \$35;
- (3) a taxicab \$65;
- (4) a motor bus with a seating capacity for 20 or more persons and used exclusively for commercial purposes in the transporting of visitors or tourists \$80;
- (5) a motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle \$15;

Statute which prohibits the charging Alaska residents for entering or using a state park or campground

ALASKA STATE PARK OVERNIGHT CAMPING FEE SCHEDULE (Proposed)

A \$8.00

1. Flush toilets
2. Running water
3. Individual spaces with separation.
4. Campground Host on duty, ranger/maintenance staff Daily on grounds.
5. Close to or within major population center.
6. Proximity to good roads.
7. May have dump station.
8. Single entrance.

B \$6.00

1. Vaulted latrines
2. Clearly defined spaces
3. Recent major maintenance and upgrading
4. Hand pump or running water.
5. Road surfaced with gravel.
6. Single entrance.
7. Rangers/maintenance staff/volunteer host frequently on grounds.

C \$3.00

1. Vaulted or pit latrines
2. Spaces not clearly defined.
3. Roads hard packed dirt or sand.
4. With or without drinking water.
5. No host-rangers/maintenance. Staff intermittantly.
6. May be remote from hard surfaced roads or major highways.
7. Fewer than 6 over-night spaces.

D Free

1. Vaulted or pit latrines or no latrines.
2. Dirt roads and pads.
3. Facilities minimum of lacking.
4. May be no drinking water.
5. Sporadic or infrequent maintenance and enforcement.
6. Multiple entrances.
7. Fewer than 6 over-night spaces.
8. More than 40 miles from maintenance station.

H TBA

Fees for these areas may be charged if demand for facility is high enough and if facility has a finished product to offer, i.e. Independence Mine SHP - yes; Fort Abercrombie SHP - no for historic portion.

Campground
Fee Schedule - Western United States

Park Systems

	CLASS A	CLASS B	CLASS C	1983 Campsite Fee Total Revenue
	Table, grill, shower etc., water, flush toilets	Table, grill, water, flush toilets, surfaced roads	Table, grill, pit toilets, Rustic	
California	\$ 9.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 3.00	\$8,596,464
Colorado	6.50	5.00	4.00	\$ 394,277
Idaho	7.00	5.00	n/a	\$291,500
Montana	n/a	3.00	2.00	\$112,317
Nevada	n/a	4.00	4.00	\$262,936
New Mexico	5.00	3.00	n/a	\$370,500
Utah	7.00	6.00	4.00	\$76,617
Washington	8.00	5.50	4.00	\$2,815,331
Wyoming	n/a	2.00	n/a	\$67,224
Arizona	10.00	6.00	3.00	\$443,054
British Col.	10.00	6.00	4.00	not. avail.
Anchorage Mun.	8.00	n/a	n/a	"
NPS - Denali	n/a	6.00	.00	"
USFS	n/a	6.00	5.00	"
*Norlite (Fbx)	11.00 (14.00 in 84)	8.50	n/a	"
*Tap. Fair (Fbx)	n/a	6.00 (up in 84)	n/a	"
Alaska (State)	n/a	10/6.00	3.00	"

*Private campgrounds



Province of
British Columbia
Ministry of
Lands, Parks
and Housing

FORUM

SELF REGISTRATION IN PARKS A SUCCESS

Will B.C. campers voluntarily register and pay for campground use when there isn't an official there to ask for their money? The answer is an overwhelming "yes", as the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division showed this year in 52 provincial parks.

Two years ago, the division launched a pilot program of self-registration fee collections in seven parks, then increased it to 11 parks in 1979 and 52 this year. The objective was to monitor both the response of campers and the effectiveness from an operations standpoint. It has proven to be an entirely valid system for both users and operators.

B.C. was the first Canadian province to use the self-registration system, but credit for its organization goes to the U.S. Forest Service, which pioneered it in the early 1970's.

The principle behind self-registration is simple: the responsibility for registering and paying camping fees falls to the camper rather than park staff. The advantage to campers is obvious: convenience. They can now pay their fee when they arrive instead of waiting for a collector to come around at a specified time. They can also pay in advance for as many nights as they wish. Assuming they do (and statistics now show this to be an entirely valid assumption), fee collectors are now free to work in other areas of park operations to improve service to the public.

The implementation of the system is also fairly simple: as campers enter the campground, a sign advises them that attendants do not collect fees. Campers are asked to select a site, then go to the self-registration station and pay. At these fee stations, strategically located in the campground, envelopes are provided, the camper fills in the registration information, puts the fee in the envelope, seals it, and deposits it in a vault, first tearing off the receipt stub. During the evening, park staff check each vault to ensure payment has been received.

During the two year period, the average voluntary compliance rate was over 80% and, when additional information, instruc-

tions, or reminders were given, the average was a stunning 96%! This rate is as high as that achieved with traditional methods of fee collection. Based on B.C.'s experimental program, Yoho National Park started a similar system in the summer of 1979. Their volunteer compliance averaged 92% — another indication of the system's viability and people's basic honesty!

To get public reaction to the new system, the division monitored some of the 20,000 camping parties who participated in the 1978 pilot program. At that time, users did not show any strong objections to the system. They were undecided as to whether or not there was a decrease in contact with staff and it was generally felt there were no problems with change, foreign currency (American) or the instructions. They did, however, remark on the appearance of the fee station, because it did not blend with park environment. This response was welcomed because the fee stations and vaults were designed to be easily identified.

As with most new concepts, improvements are an integral part of their success. The self-registration system was no exception. Several recommendations were made by field staff and improvements and modifications were made.



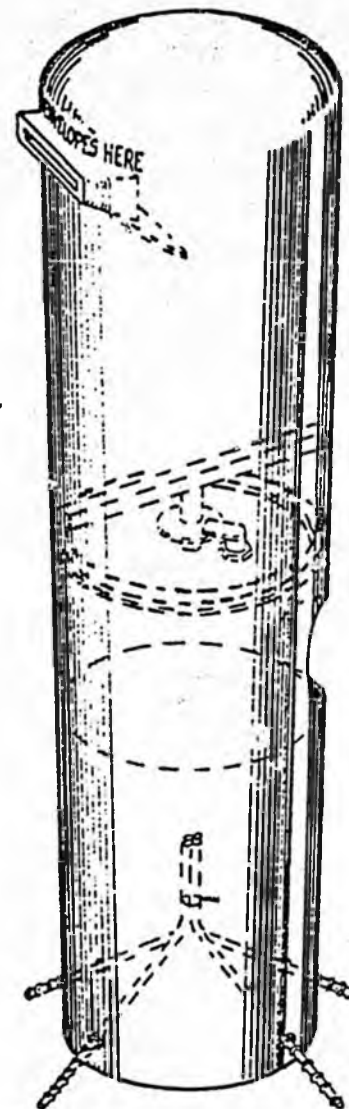
Ron Kerr of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division Operations Branch demonstrates the self-registration fee system. Ron is filling out the permit envelope following the instructions on the sign. In the foreground is the vault where Ron will deposit the permit envelope and camping fee.

ENVELOPE DEPOSITORY

SAMPLE

- D-625 DEPOSITORY BOX 48" HIGH
- DOMED HEAD AND REINFORCED SLOT PREVENTS DISTORTION BY PRYING
- STURDY 8" IRON PIPE PREVENTS USE OF PIPE CUTTER
- HIDDEN LOCK PANEL INACCESSIBLE FOR CHISELING, DRILLING OR PRYING
- ANTI TILT RING ABOVE LOCK PLATE
- CEMENT CAST INTO PIPE ANCHORS IT PERMANENTLY TO BASE
- FOREST GREEN PAINT

72.50 EACH



ALL PRICES F.O.B. ORLAND
Subject To Change Without Notice

NOTE: ALL shipments will be prepaid via most economical method
Shipping charges will appear as a separate item on your invoice.



B&K INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED

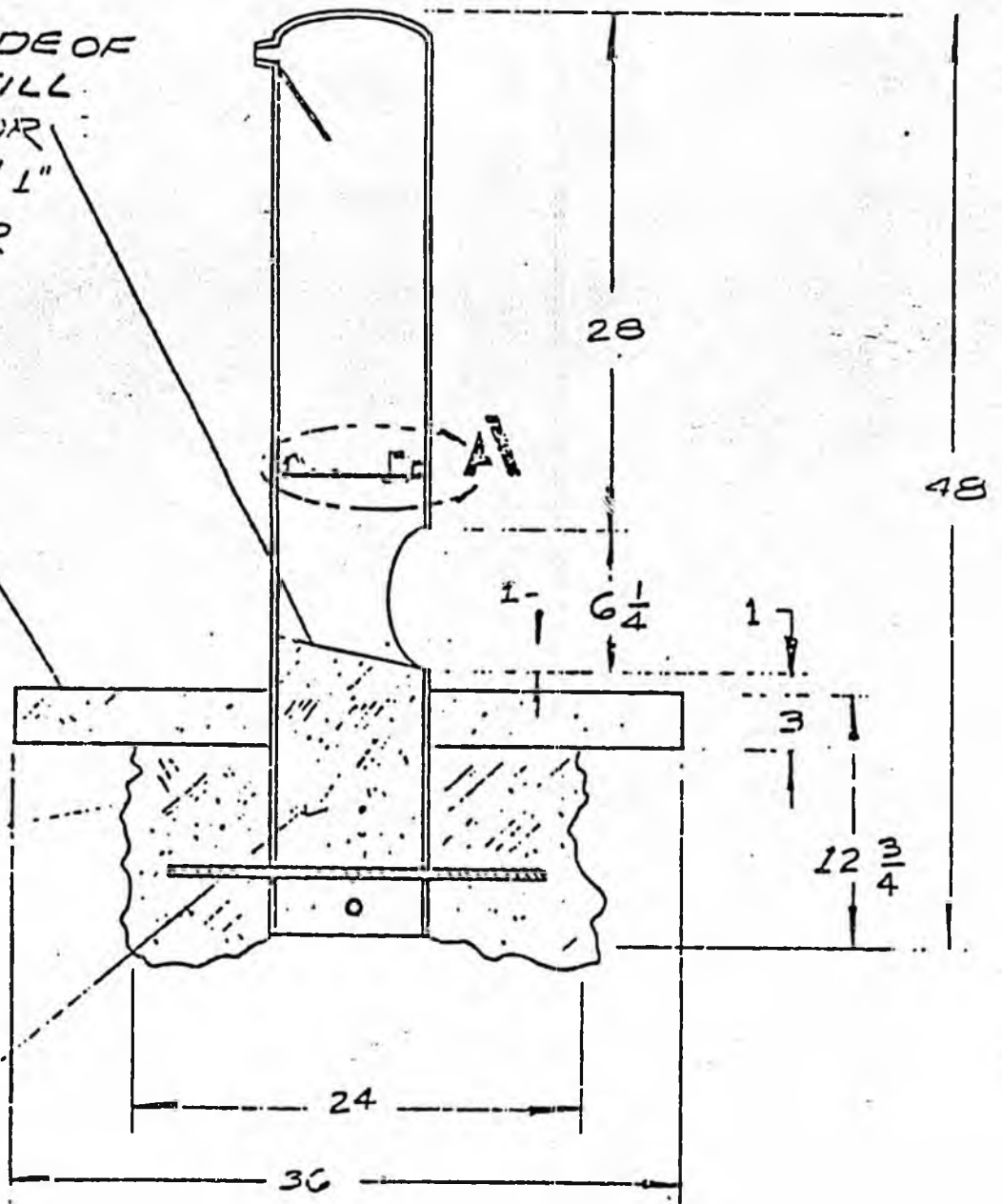
P.O. BOX 876 • ORLAND, CA. 95963 • (916) 865-4777

NOTE: FILL INSIDE OF
TUBE W/ CONC. TILL
EVEN WITH DOOR
LOWER LIP, W/ 1"
FLOVE TO OTHER
SIDE

30 x 30 x 3"
CONC. PAD
2.5 CU. FT.

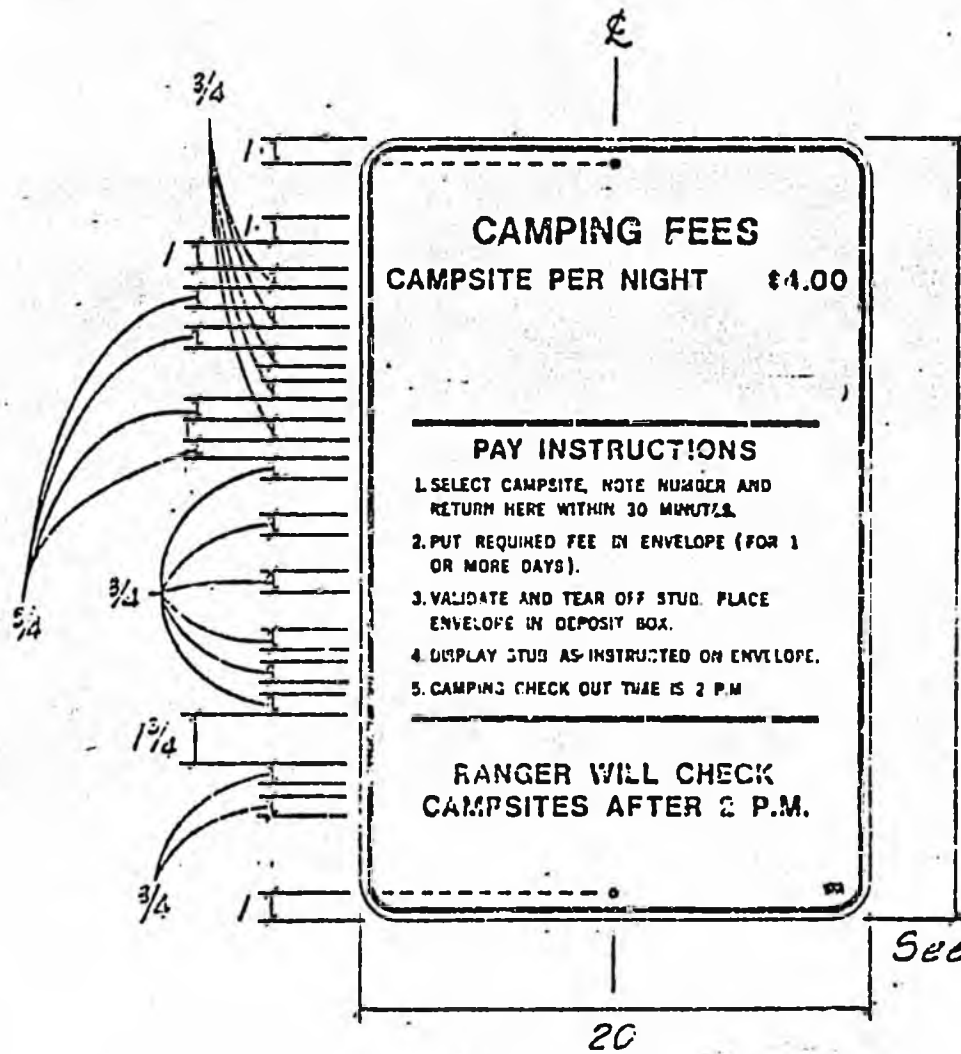
3.1 CU. FT.
CONCRETE

4.58 CU. FT.
CONCRETE



Side view of a typical
fee collection devise
or "iron ranger".

SIGN DIMENSIONS



Note: Unless otherwise noted lettering is to be 1/2" and spacing between lines is 30 1/2".

See Bear Specs

Sign Number: 790-477 (Revised) ALL DIMENSIONS IN INCHES

Size	Border Width	Margin				Frame Stiffener			Bear	Hole	Gauge	Corner Radius	
		Top	Bottom	Left	Right	Dwg.	A	B					C
20x30	1/4	3	4	1	1	---	---	---	---	1/2	5/16	0.80	1 1/2

Colors		Production Method	
Symbol		Reflective	Non-reflective
Strip			
Border	Silver-White	Background	
Background	White	Border:	
Letters	Silver-White	Letters & Symbols:	
Diamond		Die Cut Letters	
Diamond Letters		Die Cut Letters & Symbols	
		Drawn By: J.F.	

Typical Fee Payment Instruction Sign

PERMIT

Valid Only at This Site for
the Day(s) Paid Beginning
Purchase Date / /
Campers: Check Out 2 p.m.
Number of Days Paid



No. B 0531009

Detach this stub and display on
vehicle dashboard clearly visible
from outside.

No. B 0531009

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

COMPLETE THIS BLOCK ONLY ONCE DURING YOUR STAY		
ARRIVAL _____	(HOUR) _____	(AM or PM)
No. PEOPLE IN VEHICLE _____	HOME ZIP CODE _____	
EXPECTED DEPARTURE _____	(DATE) _____	(HOUR) _____ (AM or PM)

TO VALIDATE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Number of Days Paid _____

Purchase Date / /

Car License _____ State _____

Golden Age Passport No. (if applicable) _____

CAMPGROUND USERS MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Camp Unit No. _____

2300-26L (2/76)

PERMIT

Valid Only at This Site for
the Day(s) Paid Beginning
Purchase Date / /
Campers: Check Out 2 p.m.
Number of Days Paid



No. B 0531010

Detach this stub and display on
vehicle dashboard clearly visible
from outside.

No. B 0531010

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

COMPLETE THIS BLOCK ONLY ONCE DURING YOUR STAY		
ARRIVAL _____	(HOUR) _____	(AM or PM)
No. PEOPLE IN VEHICLE _____	HOME ZIP CODE _____	
EXPECTED DEPARTURE _____	(DATE) _____	(HOUR) _____ (AM or PM)

TO VALIDATE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Number of Days Paid _____

Purchase Date / /

Car License _____ State _____

Golden Age Passport No. (if applicable) _____

CAMPGROUND USERS MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:

Camp Unit No. _____

2300-26b (2/76)



DRAFT
Alaska State Park System User Fee Policy

The policy of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation regarding user fees in state park units is:

1. To establish and levy affordable entry, facility use and program fees where it is practical to do so and where the facilities or programs are worthy of the fees charged. Initial fees shall be levied only for high quality and urban adjacent campsites and for tours of the Wickersham State Historic Site.
2. Fees should be charged for highly specialized developments or programs catering to a specific clientele. Fee schedules shall seek to significantly reduce, or if possible eliminate, user subsidies.
3. Some fees may be adjusted annually, effective January 1. The overall percentage fee increase shall not be greater than the rate of inflation for the preceding year and/or a reasonable amount of increase if it is found that a user fee has been artificially low.
4. Fees schedules shall generally be in round dollar numbers to avoid the expense and inconvenience of making change.
5. Fees may be waived for school groups on a reservation basis, when their visit or trip is in conjunction with an educational program for grades K through 12.
6. Where fees are charged on an individual rather than a per vehicle basis, fees may be reduced for visitors under 12 or over 65 years of age.
7. Insofar as possible every effort should be made to insure that user fees do not unreasonably discriminate against economically disadvantaged or other minority groups.
8. Annual use permits may be established and used in lieu of paying daily fees to provide a moderate savings to frequent users of park facilities.

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

225A CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501
PHONE (907) 276 2653

February 23, 1984

Re:

The Honorable Albert P. Adams
Alaska State House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Adams:

Recent press coverage on Fairbanks Representative Robert Bettisworth's legislation to authorize fees for the use of certain facilities and programs in Alaska State Parks, and the discussion it generated, left many people with concerns and questions. Fees for what kind of facilities and programs? Where? Why? I am writing this letter because I believe the House Finance Committee deserves more information on this measure.

But first, let's look at Alaska's developing state park program. Alaska has America's newest state park system. In just over a decade it has become one of the country's finest, containing approximately 100 of our most valued recreation and historic sites which last year hosted nearly 4 million visits. Nearly 20 percent of those visiting state park units last year were visitors to Alaska. Unlike national parks in Alaska, our state recreation areas are mostly on the road system and include such spots as Chugach State Park, Chena River Recreation Area, Mirror Lake, Clam Gulch, Deep Creek, Nancy Lake Recreation area, Independence Mine State Historic Park, the Juneau Trail System, and soon, the House of Wickersham.

The modest investment we've made in these accessible parks -- about three-fourths of one percent of our land and one-fourth of one percent of the state's annual budget -- is thought by many to return great rewards in tourist dollars and public enjoyment. Some estimate the economic spin-off of state park visitation to exceed 100 million dollars per year in visitor expenditures.

Alaska has the only state park system in the United States which charges no fees. If some user fees were to be authorized, the vast majority of park visitors would still be charged nothing. Initially at least, only modern or urban-adjacent state campgrounds, tours of historic sites and public use cabins would have fees. To the best of my knowledge the state is the only public agency in Alaska which doesn't charge for its developed campgrounds. Private campgrounds obviously must charge and increasingly their operators have criticized the state for unfair competition.

The Honorable Albert P. Adams
February 23, 1984
Page 2 -

Campgrounds are increasingly expensive to develop and maintain: land, roads, campsites, restrooms, tables, fireplaces and staff to patrol and clean them begs the question of why the state doesn't defray at least some of those costs with a per-night or annual use fee, as does the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and others.

Several state park units have cabins which, if provided to the public, could help pay their way if the Legislature authorizes rental charges.

A very popular appropriation measure in last year's Legislature was for the purchase of the Wickersham House in Juneau and to operate it as a state historic site. For over 20 years, Judge Wickersham's niece, Ruth Allman, operated this significant historic property as a popular visitor attraction, charging a tour fee. Now that it's destined to be a state park unit, the state finds itself with no staff to operate it. With park user fees prohibited, no organization or business is willing to open the House to the public. Representative Bettisworth's bill would solve this problem in a more business-like manner. And I believe the public expects a reasonable cost associated with tours of historic sites, use of roadside campgrounds and rental of public cabins.

Where recreation user fees are charged, park managers have found that vandalism decreases and legislative support for new and better maintenance of facilities increases. For these and other reasons, this legislation is critically needed.

Across America, average state park operation and maintenance costs are offset by about 25 percent by user fees. That is a long way from balancing the books on the costs of providing such important programs. It's no secret that our state royalty oil income is projected to dip significantly over the years ahead. Our tourism and visitor industry is healthy and growing. Better care of our popular parks, recreation areas, and cultural sites is increased if we do what every other state park system has done for decades: charge a reasonable fee for selected facilities

Less than one-fourth of our 2,000-plus state campsites would be initially tested to see the true effects of and reaction to fees. Where fees are levied, most campsites would be \$6.00 per night. State park campsite costs would be similar to comparable public and private sites. A fee program would insure the reopening of Juneau's House of Wickersham and the provision of public use cabins in selected places.

No one intends to gouge Alaskans and out-of-state tourists. Of the wide variety of activities occurring in our 3 million-acre state park system, a rather narrow spectrum of them would require fees. The average boater, berry-picker, hiker, picnicker or family desiring to go fishing for the day wouldn't have to pay anything. To me, the advantages of visitor-industry economic strategies such as state park fees and even concessions in the years ahead is only logical.

The Honorable Albert P. Adams
February 23, 1984
Page 3 -

In closing I respectfully request speedy positive consideration of Representative Bettisworth's HB 486. It's a valuable measure which I fully support. I would be available to attend a hearing on the bill.

Sincerely,



Neil C. Johannsen
Director

cc: The Honorable Esther C. Wunnicke, Commissioner, DNR

NCJ:clk

Offered: 3/19/84
Referred: Finance

Original sponsor: Bettisworth

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE LABOR AND
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 486 (L&C)

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to fees for the use of certain state
7 park facilities; and providing for an effective
8 date."

9

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10

* Section 1. AS 41.21 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11

Sec. 41.21.021. FEES FOR THE USE OF RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL

12

FACILITIES. (a) The department may establish and collect fees for

13

the use of developed campsites described in (b) of this section,

14

guided tours of historical sites, and public use cabins. In adopting

15

fees under this section, the department shall consider:

16

(1) the cost to the state of operating the facility;

17

(2) fees charged for the use of a similar facility by the

18

private sector;

19

(3) the cost of administering a fee collection program at

20

the facility; and

21

(4) the public interest.

22

(b) The department may collect campground user fees within the

23

following state parks if the campground has been constructed with a

24

safe public water supply, individual and well-defined campsite spaces,

25

and surfaced roadways: Eagle River, Bird Creek, and Eklutna Lake

26

Campgrounds in Chugach State Park, South Rolly Campground in Nancy

27

Lake State Recreation Area, Byers Lake Campground in Denali State

28

Park; and campgrounds within Johnson Lake State Recreation Area,

29

Ninilchik State Recreation Area, Chilkat State Park, Chilkoot State

1 Recreation Site, Dry Creek State Recreation Site, Eagle Trail State
2 Recreation Site, Chena State Recreation Site, Settlers Cove State
3 Recreation Site, Quartz Lake State Recreation Area, Harding Lake State
4 Recreation Area, King Mountain State Recreation Site, Izaak Walton
5 State Recreation Site, Morgan's Landing State Recreation Area, and
6 Buskin River State Recreation Site.

7 (c) The department shall submit a report to the legislature
8 within the first 10 days of a regular session of the legislature that
9 indicates the revenue generated, the cost of administering the fees,
10 and public comments on the fees.

11 * Sec. 2. AS 28.10.411(e) is repealed.

12 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
13 10.070(c).

Offered: 2/27/84
Referred: Labor & Commerce and Finance

Original sponsor: Bettisworth

1 IN THE HOUSE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 486 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to fees for the use of certain state
7 park facilities; and providing for an effective
8 date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 41.21 is amended by adding a new section to read:

11 Sec. 41.21.021. FEES FOR THE USE OF RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL
12 FACILITIES. (a) The department may establish and collect fees for
13 the use of developed campsites, guided tours of historical sites, and
14 public use cabins. In adopting fees under this section, the depart-
15 ment shall consider:

16 (1) the cost to the state of operating the facility;

17 (2) fees charged for the use of a similar facility by the
18 private sector;

19 (3) the cost of administering a fee collection program at
20 the facility; and

21 (4) the public interest.

22 (b) The department shall submit a report to the legislature
23 within the first 10 days of a regular session of the legislature that
24 indicates the revenue generated, the cost of administering the fees,
25 and public comments on the fees.

26 * Sec. 2. AS 28.10.411(e) is repealed.

27 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01 -
28 10.070(c).

Introduced: 1/9/84
Referred: Resources and
Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY BETTISWORTH

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 486

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act authorizing fees for the use of state park
7 facilities; and providing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 41.21 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 41.21.021. FEES FOR THE USE OF RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL
11 FACILITIES. (a) The department may establish and collect fees for
12 the use of recreational and educational facilities established under
13 this chapter. In adopting fees for the use of recreational or educa-
14 tional facilities, the department shall consider:

15 (1) the cost to the state of operating the facility;

16 (2) fees charged for the use of a similar facility by the
17 private sector;

18 (3) the cost of administering a fee collection program at
19 the facility; and

20 (4) the public interest.

21 (b) The department shall submit a report to the legislature
22 within the first 10 days of a regular session of the legislature that
23 indicates the revenue generated, the cost of administering the fees,
24 and public comments on the fees.

25 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
26 10.070(c).