



Why Fees?



To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

1916 Act of Congress establishing the National Park System

I already pay taxes, why do I have to pay an entrance fee?

National parks represent major financial investments by the federal government and incur expensive development, staffing, and maintenance costs.

sion recommended to the President and Congress that, "public agencies should adopt a system of user fees designed to recapture at least a portion of the operational costs."

In an effort to be more self-sufficient, parks such as Yellowstone and Yosemite began charging fees well before the establishment of the National Park Service.

Although the discussion continues, Congress has determined that the users of national parks should bear a greater percentage of the costs associated with their maintenance and upkeep.

In 1962, the Outdoor Recreation Resources Commis-

Fee Demonstration Program

In the past, most of the money collected at national parks went into the general fund of the U.S. Treasury. In 1996, Congress authorized the Fee Demonstration Program, which provides federal land management

agencies the authority to retain user fees for back-logged maintenance projects. Dry Tortugas National Park will retain 80% of the money it collects.

Fees

Entrance Fee (effective June 1, 2003):
\$5.00 per person for individuals 17 and older

Camping Fee:
\$3.00 per person per night

Where Your Money Will Be Spent

Some of the proposed User Fee Projects include:

- Coral reef protection
- Replace picnic tables and grills in campground
- Update and revise Visitor Center exhibits

- Open historic powder magazine on self-guiding trail
- Restore historic hot shot furnace
- Develop a self-guiding audio tour



Hot Shot Furnace, Fort Jefferson, undergoing stabilization