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FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION: LEGISLATIVE ALERT!!

Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association

Help Prevent Drastic Cuts to the WI - DNR!!!

In a recent article in the Wisconsin State Journal, the Governor's two-year budget would force Wisconsin state parks to subsist on revenue from fees, such as the proposed \$33 nightly camping fees, up from \$23, halt conservation land purchases for 13 years, and strip the authority from the DNR's citizens policy-making board and cut 66 agency positions.

WPRA members are being urged to send letters to their state legislators requesting that they invest in the protection of our state's natural resources by providing adequate funding for the Department of Natural Resources that would remove the proposed elimination of 18 science research positions from the Department of Natural Resources, whose positions are critical to maintaining and improving wildlife numbers, as well as staving off efforts by anti-hunting and fishing groups, and restore adequate personnel levels to operate the prestigious Wisconsin State Park system.

Adequate tax support is critical to maintaining a "healthy level" of funding to ensure that our state parks are maintained at appropriate levels without drastic increases to user fees during the next two year budget period. The Wisconsin State Parks cannot operate without the proposed tax support. While we encourage the DNR Secretary to explore partnerships and sponsorship agreements with the private sector, and even the possibility of selling naming rights to state parks, the complete removal of tax support simply cannot take place without undermining the magnificent state park system that has provided access to affordable, close-to-home, outdoor recreation opportunities that the residents of our state should continue to receive.

Your immediate action is needed now...contact your state legislator TODAY and request that they restore appropriate tax support dollars to support our state parks and the Department of Natural Resources.

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Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

**Legislative
Updates
From WPRA
Public Policy
Committee**

**Chairperson: Craig Hoepfner, President-Elect
Chad Schooley – Region I Representative
Aaron Jenson – Region II Representative
Matt Amundson – Region III Representative
Melissa Philipps – Region IV Representative**

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