



Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 2, 2015

Contact: Michelle Wheatley, michelle_wheatley@nps.gov, 719-748-3253, ext. 101

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Will Increase Entrance Fees Beginning July 1

Florissant, CO– Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument will begin a two part phased implementation of entrance fee increases on July 1, 2015. The second part of the phased fee increase will take place on January 1, 2017. These fee increases will provide needed funding for important maintenance, visitor services, and interpretation projects within the park.

The current fee rate for a seven-day per person adult pass of \$3 will increase to \$5 for a seven-day per person pass while the park specific annual pass of \$15 will increase to \$20 for the park specific annual pass on July 1, 2015. In January 2017 the seven-day per person adult pass of \$5 will increase to \$7 for a seven-day per person pass while the park specific annual pass of \$20 will increase to \$30.

| Entrance Fee Increase Per Person (7 day pass) | 2014 Per Person Current Fee | July 1, 2015 Per Person Fee | January 1, 2017 Per Person Fee |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | \$3 | \$5 | \$7 |
| Annual Pass (good for cardholder and 3 additional adults for entrance to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument) | 2014 Current Fee | July 1, 2015 Fee Increase | January 1, 2017 Fee Increase |
| | \$15 | \$20 | \$30 |

***Per person park pass will increase to \$5 in 2015; \$7 by 2017.**

***Annual park pass will increase to \$20 in 2015; \$30 by 2017.**

Children 15 years and younger will continue to enter for free and all other park passes remain unchanged—America the Beautiful, Federal Recreational Senior, Access and Military Pass for active duty U.S. military.

“This modest increase in fees will allow us to continue to protect, preserve and share the special places here at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument with current visitors and future generations,” said Superintendent Michelle Wheatley. “After carefully considering the impact of a fee increase on visitors and community members, we came to the conclusion that this is the right course of action to improve facilities and services important to visitors.”

Entrance fees have supported a wide range of projects that improve the park and visitor experiences, including trail maintenance and improvements along the Hornbek Wildlife Loop, Shooting Star, Petrified Forest, and Ponderosa Loop Trails. Other projects included producing a new orientation film in Visitor Center Theater, purchase of supplies to support the park's Junior Ranger Program (activity booklets, badges, patches for 5-12 year olds - 3,500 participants annually). Rehabilitation of the Hornbek Homestead's building foundation and installation of interpretive wayside signs along the Ponderosa and Petrified Forest Trails and Hornbek Homestead parking area.

Additional revenue from this fee increase will be used to for the following: hiring additional seasonal staff to provide curriculum-based education to visiting school groups K-12, stargazing for the visiting public, community outreach programming for underserved youth and active/retired military and their families, replenish Junior Ranger Program supplies (activity booklets, badges, patches), remodel the picnic area near the visitor center to meet accessibility standards. Continued trail maintenance on 14-miles of trails, and digital media enhancement of one indoor fossil exhibit and a mobile app for twenty-eight outdoor interpretive waysides.

In the fall of 2014, the National Park Service conducted a nationwide review of entrance fees. To solicit public input, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument launched a civic engagement campaign in November 2014 through January 2015. During the public comment period, the park received five formal comments. Four of the comments supported an increase, and one opposed the increase.

For additional information about Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, please call (719) 748-3253 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/flfo or follow us on Facebook/FlorissantNPS.

-NPS-

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 407 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.