

**Appendix G: Recreation Fee Systems: State Case Studies**

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

THE  
WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

# Recreation Fee Systems: State Case Studies

Prepared for: Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission,  
in partnership with the Washington State Department of Fish and  
Wildlife, and Washington State Department of Natural Resources

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## **State Case Study Overview:**

Many states face issues similar to those of Washington State when managing recreation on state lands. For example, many state land management agencies face the challenges of working with diminishing state funding, designing and implementing an effective pass system, and maintaining quality facilities. The state case studies outlined below help to inform management decisions being weighed in Washington by examining the practices of other states. While this document provides a helpful tool to understand what other states are doing, it is important to note that comparing each state is difficult because of state differences in population, land ownership composition, and land management agency structure. Despite these state level differences, there are similarities and lessons that can be learned from how different states administer different recreation pass systems.

### **Agency Structure**

- States lands in the case studies are broken into three general categories
  - State Park Lands
  - State Trust Lands/State Forests
  - Wildlife Management Areas
- There are varying numbers of land management agencies depending on the state
  - Three agencies: WA, ID, OR
  - Two agencies: CO, MT, PA
  - One agency: MI

### **Funding for state land management**

- All states use revenue from hunting/fishing licenses
- All states use revenue from natural resource extraction
- Lottery revenue is used by two states (OR, CO)
- One state uses realty transfer tax revenue (PA)

### **Land Ownership**

Land Type <sup>24</sup>	Washington	Oregon	Idaho	Colorado	Michigan	Montana	Pennsylvania
State	9%	5%	5%	2%	12%	6%	13%
Federal	27%	27%	62%	36%	10%	29%	2%
Private	64%	68%	33%	62%	78%	65%	85%
Total Acreage	42,612,500	61,441,900	52,960,600	66,716,662	36,311,153	92,882,231	28,684,800

<sup>24</sup> This table does not include tribal lands, as multiple sources reference differing totals for tribal owned lands.

### Population and Demographics (2016 estimates)

	Washington <sup>25</sup>	Oregon <sup>26</sup>	Idaho <sup>27</sup>	Colorado <sup>28</sup>	Michigan <sup>29</sup>	Montana <sup>30</sup>	Pennsylvania <sup>31</sup>
<b>Total population</b>	7,288,000	4,093,465	1,683,140	5,540,545	9,928,300	1,042,520	12,784,227
<b>% of Veterans</b>	7.8%	7.5%	7.1%	7.0%	6.3%	8.6%	6.8%
<b>% in Poverty</b>	12.2%	15.4%	15.1%	11.5%	15.8%	14.6%	13.2%
<b>% 65 and older</b>	14.8%	16.8%	15.1%	13.4%	16.2%	17.7%	17.4%
<b>% with disability (under 65)</b>	8.9%	10.2%	9%	7.2%	10.3%	9.1%	9.5%
<b>Persons/sq mile</b>	101.2	39.9	19	48.5	174.8	6.8	283.9
<b>Households/state</b>	2,668,912	1,533,430	589,320	2,024,468	3,841,148	409,394	4,958,859

### Pass Systems

- Washington has the only interagency state land recreation pass (Discover Pass)
- Other states:
  - Have 1 land management agency (MI)
  - Do not require passes to access some state lands (ID, PA)
  - Do not permit recreation on some state lands (CO)
  - Have separate passes for lands managed by different agencies (OR)
- Washington has an opt-in system similar to other states (MI, ID)
- All states examined require a fee/pass to use winter recreation sites

	Washington	Oregon	Idaho	Colorado	Michigan	Montana	Pennsylvania
Daily pass cost	\$10 - \$12.50	\$5	N/A	\$3 - \$9	\$9 (non-resident)	\$6 (non-resident)	Free to everyone
Annual pass cost	\$30 - \$35	\$30	\$10 (residents) \$40 (non-resident)	\$70	\$11 (resident)	\$6 (resident) \$35 (non-resident)	Free to everyone
Pass revenue	\$21,898,126	\$3,900,403	\$3,016,700	\$14,435,536	\$19,240,900	\$791,269	N/A
Pass revenue per capita	\$3.00	\$0.95	\$1.79	\$2.61	\$1.94	\$0.76	N/A
Pass revenue per household	\$8.20	\$2.54	\$5.12	\$7.13	\$7.61	\$1.93	N/A
Participating households	Further Research Necessary						
Pass format	Hang tag	Hang tag	Outside windshield sticker	Inside windshield cling	License Plate	License Plate	Free to everyone
Pass Transferability	Two vehicles	Transferable among vehicles	One vehicle	One vehicle	One vehicle	One vehicle	N/A

<sup>25</sup> Washington: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/WA>

<sup>26</sup> Oregon: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/OR>

<sup>27</sup> Idaho: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/ID>

<sup>28</sup> Colorado: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/CO>

<sup>29</sup> Michigan: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/MI>

<sup>30</sup> Montana: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/MT>

<sup>31</sup> Pennsylvania: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/PA>

## **Approaches to Exemptions and Reduced Fees**

In Washington, nine state and federal agencies administer and recognize eleven different exemptions or reduced fee programs.

See the Agency and Pass graphic at the end of this document.

## **National Trends**

Land management agencies across the United States provide exemptions or reduced fees to different populations. This section provides an overview of where Washington fits with approaches across the country.

### **Disability Programs**

- State:
  - WA offers 5-year passes for individuals with permanent disabilities and 1-year passes for individuals with short-term disabilities
  - WA is 1 of 10 states offering free permanent disability permits, 13 additional states offer reduced fees for permanently disabled individuals.
  - WA is 1 of 3 states offering permits for short-term disabilities
- Federal: Free lifetime pass Access Pass to U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. The Access Pass may also provide a 50% discount on some amenity fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, boat launching, and specialized interpretive services.

### **Fee-Free Days**

- State:
  - WA is a significant outlier with a minimum of 12 fee-free days annually
  - WA is 1 of 16 states offering fee-free days
  - Omitting WA, the national average of fee-free days is 1.25; most states only offer 1 fee free day
- Federal: During 10 days of the year (may vary slightly each year), all National Park Service sites that charge an entrance fee offer free admission to everyone.

### **Military**

- State:
  - Nationally, 17 of 50 states offer a fee reduction or exemption for all military personnel. Washington **does not** offer a fee reduction or exemption for all military personnel- WA only offers fee reduction or exemption for disabled vets
  - Nationally, 40 of 50 states offer fee reduction or exemption for disabled vets
  - Nationally, the range for disability rate is from 10% to 100%, with the most common being 100%
  - WA's disability rate threshold is 30%, meaning the eligibility threshold for Washington's disabled veterans is significantly lower than most other states.

- Federal: Free Annual Pass for current U.S. military members and their dependents in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard as well as Reserve and National Guard members.

### **Senior/Elder Programs**

- State:
  - Nationally, 31 of 50 states offer senior citizens a free/fee reduced pass
  - WA State Parks offers two senior entry passes: Off-Season Pass for \$75, and a Limited Income Pass for free
    - The Off-Season Pass has an upfront cost but no charge for camping or moorage
    - The Limited Income Pass has no upfront cost and offers 50% reduction on camping and moorage
- Federal: \$80 lifetime Senior Pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or over. \$20 annual Senior Pass is also available.

### **Foster Families**

- State:
  - Nationally, there are currently 5 states that offer foster family/child programs or benefits: CT, FL, OR, VT, WA
  - In FY16, State Parks issued benefits to 8,520 foster families
    - That is nearly 3x as many as the next state, Oregon, at 2,763
    - The third largest amount issued was 1,000: Vermont
    - Connecticut, at 400 in FY16, is by far the lowest, providing 20x fewer families with benefits than WA
- Federal: There is no federal foster family program or benefits.

### **Volunteers**

- State:
  - WA is 1 of 13 states that offer volunteers fee reduction or exemption as a benefit of their volunteer programs
  - Nationally, the requisite hours volunteered to receive benefits ranges from 20 to 200 hours, with most states requiring 100 hours- well above Washington's required 24 hours of volunteering.
- Federal: NW Forest Volunteer Pass is granted to volunteers on the basis of participation in eligible volunteer days. Free Annual Volunteer Pass after 250 service hours with federal agencies that participate in the Interagency Pass Program

### **Case Studies – Exemptions & Reduced Fee Programs**

See Case Study Exemption chart below

## Detailed State Profiles:

The following case studies include Washington and 6 additional states: Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, Michigan, Montana, and Pennsylvania. Of the 5 outside states listed, the first three states have pass systems that are similar to Washington, where individuals who recreate must acquire a pass. Michigan has an incentivized system and Montana has an “opt-out” system, where paying for state lands is a default option – which informed the development of the One-Vehicle, Reduced Fees Package. Pennsylvania has an all-in system, similar to the Pass-Free Access Package.

Washington <sup>32</sup>				
Type of Land – Management Agency	Pass	Price	Benefits	Format & Transferability
<b>State Parks</b> Washington State Parks	Discover Pass	Annual: \$30-35  Day Pass: \$10-11.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides entry to every State Park for 2 vehicles, one at a time</li> </ul>	Hang Tag – Transferable between 2 vehicles
<b>Winter Pass</b> Washington State Parks	Sno Park Seasonal Permit	Annual: \$40 Day Pass: \$20 (Higher cost if bought from vendor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to Sno-Parks</li> </ul>	Sticker
	Special Groomed Trails	Annual: \$40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required at some sites in addition to Sno-Park Permit</li> </ul>	
<b>State Trust (Endowment) Lands</b> WA Department of Natural Resources	Discover Pass	Same as above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recreation on state trust lands</li> </ul>	Hang Tag – Transferable between 2 vehicles
<b>Wildlife Management Areas</b> WA Department of Fish & Wildlife	Discover Pass  <b>OR</b>  Vehicle Access Pass	Vehicle Access Pass included with price of hunting or fishing license	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to state WMA’s and other WDFW managed land</li> </ul>	Hang Tag – Transferable between 2 vehicles

**Funding for state land management:** Three agencies manage state lands in Washington: Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission (State Parks), Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). The interagency Discover Pass provides access to all state recreation lands. Residents can purchase the Discover Pass during vehicle registration, online, or from retail vendors such as REI, Walmart, or Ace Hardware. Each agency receives a portion of the revenue from Discover Pass sales with 84% going to State Parks, and 8% each to DNR and WDFW.

**Unique Components of Pass System:** Washington is the only state with multiple land management agencies that all administer the same pass.

<sup>32</sup> <https://discoverpass.wa.gov/>

Oregon<sup>33</sup>

Type of Land – Management Agency	Pass	Price	Benefits	Format & Transferability
<b>State Parks</b> Oregon Parks and Recreation	Oregon State Parks parking permit	Annual: \$30 2 years: \$50 Day Pass: \$5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides entry to every State Park for 1 vehicle</li> </ul>	Hangtag, transferable among vehicles
<b>State and Federal Fee</b> Sites along the coast- Oregon Parks and Recreation, BLM, FS, NPS	Oregon Pacific Coast Passport	Annual: \$35 5 Days: \$10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants pass holder and passengers in same vehicle access to 17 sites on Oregon Coast</li> </ul>	Hangtag, individual
<b>Winter Pass</b> Driver and Motor Vehicles Services	Oregon Sno-Park	Annual: \$25 3 Days: \$9 1 Day: \$4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of groomed trails and parking in plowed areas</li> <li><b>Grants access to Park N' Ski areas in Idaho and California</b></li> </ul>	Inside windshield sticker
<b>State Trust/Statutory Lands</b> Dept. of State Lands	No pass or fee required to access unleased lands	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Wildlife Management Areas</b> Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	ODFW Parking Permit (included with an annual hunting license)	Annual: \$30 Day Pass: \$10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking for 1 vehicle at Wildlife Areas</li> </ul>	Dash tag

**Funding for state land management:** Similar to Washington, Oregon state lands are managed by several agencies: Oregon Parks and Recreation, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), Oregon Department of State Lands (ODSL), and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). Oregon State Parks ranks 30<sup>th</sup> in the nation for acreage, but has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of daytime visitors at around 50 million visits each year. The state park system is funded by the Oregon Lottery (47%), visitor fees and RV registrations (47%) and federal funds (6%). Of the 256 properties in the state park system only 26 charge parking fees. The ODSL is funded primarily from interest on investments, and ODFW is funded by hunting licenses and other fees (58%), Federal Funds (38%), General Funds (8%), and Lottery Funds (1%).

#### Unique Components of Pass System

- The Oregon State Parks Foundation offers membership to those who donate. Membership levels (based on amount donated, up to \$5000) include increasing benefits. All memberships include an annual State Parks Pass.
- Oregon has an Interagency Pass for state and federal sites along the Oregon Coast.

<sup>33</sup> [http://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=visit.dsp\\_dayuse](http://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=visit.dsp_dayuse)

Idaho<sup>34</sup>

Type of Land – Management Agency	Pass	Price	Benefits	Format & Transferability
<b>State Parks</b> Idaho Parks and Recreation	Idaho State Parks Passport	Annual: \$10 Day Pass: \$5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides entry to every State Park for 1 vehicle</li> <li>Boat launch fees in state parks</li> <li>Free parking at Ford Idaho Center</li> </ul>	Outside windshield sticker – connected to license plate
<b>Winter Pass</b> Idaho Parks and Recreation	Park N’ Ski	Annual: \$25 3 days: \$7.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of groomed trails and parking in plowed areas</li> <li><b>Grants access to Park N’ Ski areas in Oregon</b></li> </ul>	Outside windshield sticker – Connected to license plate
<b>State Trust (Endowment) Lands</b> Idaho Department of Lands	No pass or fee required to access unleased lands	Part of OHV registration is used for access/repair of damage	N/A	N/A
<b>Wildlife Management Areas</b> Idaho Fish and Game	No pass or fee required for access	Hunting and fishing licenses are administered by this agency	N/A	N/A

**Funding for state land management:** The Idaho state lands management structure is similar to Washington’s in that multiple agencies manage access to different types of state lands. Both ID and WA have an annual pass that provides unlimited access to State Parks, as well as having a separate pass for Park N’ Ski facilities. Unlike WA, ID does not administer an interagency state lands pass. The Dept. of Lands and Fish and Game do not require an access pass or fee, but do collect revenue from off-road vehicle registration, hunting licenses, invasive species sticker (boats), etc. As of 2016, state general funds accounts for less than 10% of the State Parks & Rec budget. State Parks generated 99.1% of their operating costs overall in 2016 (Fiscal Facts). The ID park passport is based on the Michigan state park pass model.

#### Unique Components of Pass System

- Idaho State Parks is pursuing sponsorships from private businesses and have raised about \$40,000 so far.
- Idaho State Parks is developing increased retail opportunities at state parks including equipment and event rentals.

<sup>34</sup> <https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/idaho-state-parks-passport-0>

Colorado<sup>35</sup>

Type of Land – Management Agency	Pass	Price	Benefits	Format & Transferability
<b>State Parks</b> Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Park Entrance Pass	Day: \$7-9 Annual: \$70 (\$35 for each additional annual pass)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides entry to every State Park for 1 vehicle (non-transferable)</li> </ul>	Inside windshield cling- Connected to license plate
<b>Winter Pass</b> Colorado Parks and Wildlife	OHV registration	Part of Snowmobile Registration fees pays for trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can use state managed trails</li> </ul>	Outside windshield sticker- nontransferable
<b>State Trust (Endowment) Lands</b> Colorado State Land Board	Not open to the public, unless leased for recreation	Part of OHV registration is used for access/repair of damage	N/A	N/A
<b>Wildlife Management Areas</b> Colorado Parks and Wildlife	No pass for access	Areas supported by \$10 habitat stamp and hunting/fishing licenses.	N/A	N/A

**Funding for state land management:** The Colorado State Parks and Colorado Division of Wildlife were merged in 2011, resulting in Colorado Parks and Wildlife which manages state lands available for recreation. State trust lands are not open to the public for recreation unless leased for that purpose. The agency relies on licenses, passes and fees for the majority of its funding (54%). Lottery funds (19%), grants (15%), sales and donations (5%) are also significant funding sources (Fact Sheet).

#### Unique Components of Pass System

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife partners with local libraries to check out park passes and a backpack with activities and information inside.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife is in the process of lobbying for new legislation that will allow it to increase license and pass prices to cover current costs.

<sup>35</sup> <http://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/Pages/AnnualPassInfo.aspx>

Michigan<sup>36</sup>

Type of Land – Management Agency	Pass	Price	Benefits	Format & Transferability
<b>State Parks</b> Michigan Department of Natural Resources	Recreation Passport	No resident day pass Annual: \$11 (residents) +\$5 if purchased outside regular license renewal period Annual: \$32 (nonresident) Daily: \$9 (nonresident)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides entry to every State Park and recreation areas for 1 vehicle (nontransferable)</li> <li>Discounts at various businesses</li> </ul>	Marked on your vehicle registration tabs
<b>Winter Pass</b> Michigan Department of Natural Resources	Snowmobile Trail Permit	Annual: \$25 3-days: \$7.50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of groomed trails and parking in plowed areas</li> </ul>	Sticker (on snowmobile) – Online, local vendors
<b>State Trust (Endowment) Lands</b> Michigan Department of Natural Resources	No pass or fee required to access unleased lands	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Wildlife Management Areas</b> Michigan Department of Natural Resources	No pass or fee required for access	Hunting and fishing licenses are administered by this agency	N/A	N/A

**Funding for state land management:** Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages all state lands, including State Parks, Wildlife Areas, and Trust Lands. MDNR funding sources include General Fund (9.8%), restricted funds which—which includes resource extraction funds, hunting licenses, and recreation passport (68%)—as well as Federal Funding (19.1%).

#### Unique Components of Pass System

- Passport Perks Program: Purchasing a Pass during vehicle registration qualifies citizens to discounts at restaurants, oil changes, tax prep, etc.

<sup>36</sup> [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365\\_55798---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10365_55798---,00.html)

Montana<sup>37</sup>

Type of Land – Management Agency	Pass	Price	Benefits	Format & Transferability
<b>State Parks</b> Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks	No pass for residents - only need a Montana license plate	No day-use fee Resident: \$6 annually Nonresident: \$35 annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides entry to every State Park</li> </ul>	Montana license plate
<b>Winter Pass</b> Montana State Parks	Trail Pass	Residents: \$18 for 3 Seasons Nonresident: \$25 annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of groomed trails and parking in plowed areas</li> <li>Applies to all mechanized use of groomed winter trails</li> </ul>	Sticker
<b>State Trust (Endowment) Lands</b> Department of Natural Resources & Conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Land Recreational Use License</li> <li>Conservation License (hunting/fishing)</li> </ul>	\$10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to state lands for non-commercial, non-hunting activities</li> <li>Conservation license includes a \$2 charge that grants access to trust lands for hunting/fishing</li> </ul>	Card?
<b>Wildlife Management Areas</b> Montana Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks	No pass or fee required for access (Hunting/fishing licenses still required in WMA for those activities)	N/A	N/A	N/A

**Funding for state land management:** Montana state lands are managed by 2 agencies: Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (MFWP), and the Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC). Instead of requiring a pass for use of state parks, Montana collects a \$6 fee during vehicle registration unless the user opts out by filling out and signing additional paperwork saying they won't use the state parks. State Trust lands require a separate Recreation Use License for any non-hunting activities on state lands, while Wildlife Management Areas do not require a pass for access. Across all state lands in MT, hunting and fishing require a Conservation License in addition to any animal-specific tags that apply. The revenue from hunting licenses as well as recreation passes and other fees accounts for 70% of MFWP's funding (Legislative Fiscal Division). The DNRC also receives funding from taxes on oil and gas, coal, and mineral extraction on state trust lands.

#### Unique Components of Pass System

- Access to state parks does not require a pass or day-use fee, only a MT license plate
- The opt-out option

<sup>37</sup> <http://stateparks.mt.gov/fees/>

### Pennsylvania<sup>38</sup>

Type of Land – Management Agency	Pass	Price	Benefits	Format & Transferability
<b>State Parks, State Forests</b> Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	N/A Everyone has free access	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Winter Pass</b> Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Snowmobile Registration	\$20 (every 2 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of snowmobiles anywhere off of your private land</li> </ul>	Sticker
<b>State Trust (Endowment) Lands</b> There are none	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>State Game Lands</b> Pennsylvania Game Commission	No pass or fee required for access (yet)	Hunting and fishing licenses are administered by this agency	N/A	N/A

**Funding for state land management:** Pennsylvania has two agencies managing state lands: Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PDCNR) and (Pennsylvania Game Commission) PGC. PDCNR manages the state park system and state forest lands, while PGC manages state game lands. Access to all state lands in Pennsylvania is free. PDCNR is funded in part through the Keystone Recreation Park & Conservation Fund established in 1993 which supports public libraries, historic sites, state parks, and conservation efforts. About a third of its revenues are from Oil & Gas Leases, and roughly 10% comes from General Funds (Frantz, 2013). The Keystone Fund gets its revenue by collecting 15% of the states' Realty Transfer Tax (Revenue Source).

#### Unique Components of Pass System

- Pennsylvania State Parks & Forests has an app (<http://www.pocketranger.com/apps/Pennsylvania>) where individuals can search for available activities and sites, make reservations, and explore GPS features.
  - The GPS features allow users to access trail data, record hiking and running trail routes, alert emergency contacts with GPS coordinates in the event of an emergency, and take photos that are attached to mapping features that record the location of scenic views, plants, and wildlife.

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/StateParkPrices/Pages/default.aspx>

## AGENCIES, PROGRAMS AND PASSES

Valid in Washington

GENERAL

HUNTING

FISHING

BOATING

WINTER REC  
(NOV. - MARCH)

### THE FEDERAL INTERAGENCY PASS IS RECOGNIZED BY 6 FEDERAL AGENCIES, NATIONWIDE.

### STATE

**PARKS**

**DFW**

**DNR**

**USFS**

**USFWS**

**USACE**

**USBOR**

**USBLM**

**USNPS**

### ARRIVING W/O MOTOR VEHICLE

DISABILITY

MILITARY & VETERANS

SENIORS

FOSTER FAMILIES

4TH GRADERS

VOLUNTEERS

FREE DAYS

### ENTRANCE FEES MAY APPLY, VARIES BY AGENCY

### FREE DISCOVER PASS WITH 24 QUALIFYING VOLUNTEER HOURS.

✓ 10

✓ 5

✓ 5

✓ 5

✓ 1

✓ 5

✓ 12

✓ 2

NO PASS REQUIRED

Case Study Exemption Chart

State	Agency	Exempt Group	Cost of Pass	Entry/Use	Camping	Camping Reservation	Boat Moorage	Watercraft Launch	Trailer dump	Fishing License	Hunting License
Oregon	OR Parks and Recreation	Active duty military	free	free	free						
		Disabled Veterans (all disability levels)	free	free	free						
		Foster Families	free	free	free						
		Fee Free Days	free	free	free						
	OR Department of State Lands										
	OR Department of Fish & Wildlife										
Idaho	ID Parks and Recreation	RV Registration Holders	free			free					
		Limited Income Individuals	free		\$4 discount						
		Disabled Veterans (100% service related disability)	free	free	free						
		Senior Citizens (62+)	free		50% discount						
		4th Graders	free	free							
	ID Department of Lands										
Colorado	CO Parks and Wildlife	Senior Citizens (64+)	\$60		discount						
		Limited Income Individuals	\$14								
		Disabled Individuals	\$14								
		Disabled Veterans (50% service related disability)	free								
		Fee Free Days	free								
	CO State Land Board										
Michigan	MI Department of Natural Resources	Disabled Veteran (100% service related disability)	free	free							
		EX-POW	free	free							
		Medal of Honor recipient	free	free							
		Fee Free Days	free	free							
Montana	MT Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Senior Citizens (62+)	free		50% discount						
		Disabled Individual	free		50% discount						
		Disabled Veterans	free	free							
Pennsylvania	PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	Free to all visitors									
	PA Game Commission										

## Exemption Administration

Active duty military don't receive a free pass, but get reimbursed for their entry and camping fees. Individuals must mail OR Parks the camping or day-use receipts for the dates of their stay

Applicants must obtain a letter from the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs stating they have a service-connected disability, fill out an application to mail to OR Parks. The pass will be mailed to the applicant.

Foster Parents must send a copy of their valid Certificate of Approval to Maintain a Foster Home in Oregon along with their mailing address and daytime phone number. The pass will be

OR Parks and Recreation annually administers 2 fee free days, which includes a night of free camping.

Individuals must show proof of their RV registration upon arriving at a state park.

Individuals must show proof of limited income (via a Medicaid card) or sign a limited income form.

Applicants must mail both a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs verifying their eligibility and a completed veteran discount application.

Discount only valid from Monday-Thursday (excluding holidays) at participating state parks.

ID Parks and Recreation recognizes the Federal "Every Kid in a Park" pass.

May be purchased only at a State Park or CO Parks and Wildlife office.  
Applicant must provide CO driver's license, and proof of CO registration.

May only be purchased at one of six specific locations. Applicant must provide photo identification and provide income documentation in the form of the previous year federal income tax return. Documentation is used to verify that the federal gross annual income of the applicant was at or below the determined eligibility level.

May only be purchased at one of six specific locations. Applicant must provide a copy of their CO I.D., recent documentation of "total and permanent disability" from the Social Security Administration, the Veterans Administration, the CO Division of Workers' Compensation or a Physician's Letter.

CO residents with current Disabled Veterans license plates (obtained through the Division of Motor Vehicles) may access CO State Parks free without a pass on the windshield.

CO Parks and Wildlife offers 1 fee free day.

In order to receive free entry, all three of Michigan's exempt groups must have the corresponding license plate to their exemption.

MI annually administers 4 fee free days, which also include free fishing.

Applicant must provide photo identification with a Montana resident address.

Applicant must provide one of the following, a disability form obtained from the department and signed by a physician, a Resident Disability Conservation License, or a disability permit or license plate issued by the Montana Motor Vehicle Division.

Resident disabled veterans are exempt from paying Montana motor vehicle registration fees, including the state park entry fee.

State	Agency	Exempt Group	Cost of Pass	Entry/Use	Camping	Camping Reservation	Boat Moorage	Watercraft Launch	Trailer dump	Fishing License	Hunting License
Federal	The following 6 U.S. federal land management agencies all administer the same exempt or reduced fee passes: National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Senior Citizens (62+)	free	free							
		4th Graders	free	free							
		Disabled Individuals	free	free							
		Volunteers	free	free							
		Current U.S. Military members	free	free							
		Fee Free Days	free	free							
Washington - All 3 WA land management agencies administer the Discover Pass	Only state-wide reduced fee program.	Volunteers	free	free							
	WA State Parks	Disabled Veteran (30% disability levels)	free	free	free	free	free	free	free		
		Foster Families	free	free	free			free			
		Senior Citizen (62+) (Limited-Income)	free	free	50% discount		50% discount	free	free		
		Senior Citizen (62+) (Off Season: Oct. 1 - March 31)	\$75		free		free				
		Disabled Individuals (Long-term)	free	free	50% discount		50% discount	free	free		
		Disabled Individuals (Short-term)	free	free	50% discount		50% discount	free	free		
		Fee Free Days	free	free							
	WA Department of Fish & Wildlife	Fee Free Days	free	free							
		Youth (14 & under)	free							exempt	
		Youth (age 15)	free							discount	discount
		Resident Senior Citizen (70+)	free							discount	discount
		WA State/National Guard	free								free
		Veterans (30% disability level)	free							discount	discount
		Veteran Senior Citizens (30% disability level & 65+)	free							discount	discount
		Individual with a qualifying lower/upper extremity disability, visual impairment, or cognitive intellectual development disability	free							discount	discount
	WA Department of Natural Resources										

Exemption Administration	
Applicants must provide documentation of age and residency or citizenship.	
Applicants can obtain a paper pass by visiting the "Every Kid in a Park" website, which can then be exchanged for the Annual 4th Grade Pass at federal recreation sites that charge Entrance or Standard Amenity fees.	
Applicants must provide documentation of permanent disability and U.S. residency or citizenship.	
Available for volunteers with 250 service hours with federal agencies that participate in the Interagency Pass Program.	
Applicants can obtain a pass in person at a federal recreation site by showing a Common Access Card or Military ID.	
Each federal agency administers their own fee free days.	
Volunteers who work on certain projects and lands managed by State Parks, DNR, and WDFW can earn vouchers for their volunteer hours. When a volunteer accrues 24 hours or more, they may submit the vouchers for a complimentary Discover Pass.	
Applicants must provide proof of 3 consecutive months residency in WA and proof of 30% or more service connected disability in the form of an award letter or letter of certification on letterhead stationery from the Veterans Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.	
Individuals must show a WA driver's license or WA I.D., along with a Foster Care ID card or a Foster Home License. The foster child must arrive and camp with the caregiver the entire length of the stay.	
Applicants must provide a completed affidavit of income form and have it notarized if they are using the application form for income documentation or affidavit of age. Applicants must also provide proof of age and residency. A WA driver's license or ID will provide both. A copy of a birth certificate, notarized affidavit of age, witnessed statement of age or baptismal certificate may be used for proof of age. A copy of a valid WA voter's registration card or WA senior citizen property tax exemption may be used for proof of residency. Applicants must also provide documentation of their income breakdown by a copy of page one of their Federal Income Tax Return for the previous calendar year, or a copy of their WA Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption.	
Applicants must provide proof of age through a copy of a birth certificate, notarized affidavit of age, witnessed statement of age, or driver's license. Proof of residency may be a copy of a WA driver's license, voter's registration card or property tax exemption.	
Applicants must provide proof of 3 consecutive months residency in WA and proof of their disability. Proof of developmental disability by DSHS is legal blindness, profound deafness, or other permanent disabilities by the US Social Security Administration may be certified on letterhead by the authorizing agency, or attested to on the pass application form by the authorizing agency or doctor. Persons with Social Security defined disabilities must be receiving benefits for the disability. A WA ID card, decal, or special license plate issued for a permanent disability may serve as proof of disability.	
WA State Parks annually administers 12 fee free days.	
WDFW annually administers 2 fee free days, which also include free fishing.	
Kids who are 14 and younger don't need a fishing license to fish in the state of Washington	
Teens 15 years of age are required to buy a youth fishing license.	
Applicants must file an application to receive free small game, and big game hunting licenses, as well as a supplemental migratory bird permit.	
Applicants must include a Veterans Reduced Fee Application along with a copy of their VA Disability Percentage Rating letter showing their name and their disability rating.	
Individuals need to apply for "Disability Status" and are then able to apply for a special use permit. Applicants can then file an application along with a physician's statement that diagnoses the disease, disorder, or injury which severely impairs the applicant's ability to participate in recreational activities or access department lands.	