

**GAME, FISH AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION
PROPOSAL**

GEORGE S. MICKELSON TRAIL USER SERVICE FEES

Chapter 41:03:05

Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	Feb 28-Mar 1, 2019	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2019	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2019	Pierre

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

41:03:05:02. Trail user service fee exemptions. The following are exempt from the requirements and user fee required by § 41:03:05:01:

(1) Any person using the George S. Mickelson Trail within the posted city limits of the communities of Deadwood, Lead, Rochford, Hill City, Custer, Pringle, and Edgemont;

(2) Any person who enters the George S. Mickelson Trail area in volunteer service to the trail or as a volunteer worker with an assigned role at an event requiring a special permit pursuant to § 41:03:01:04 if the person has received a special free trail user pass from a department representative;

(3) Any adjoining landowner or lessee on those portions of the George S. Mickelson Trail fronting the landowner's or lessee's property; and

(4) Any member of a resident nonprofit youth group if the group obtains written permission from a department representative before using the trail.

(5) Members and guests of a South Dakota veterans organization or group, South Dakota National Guard or military reserve unit and guests, or patients currently admitted to a veterans hospital in South Dakota and their attendants who enter the George S. Mickelson Trail area for a special event that is hosted by the organization, group, unit or hospital if an approved special event permit has been obtained from the park manger at least five days before the special event. The park manager shall issue special free trail user passes to participants of the special event.

41:03:05:03. Trail user service fees and issuance of trail user pass. The trail user service fees are as follows:

(1) Annual pass fee, \$15 a person;

(2) Daily pass fee, \$4 a person; ~~and~~

~~(3) Annual pass late fee, \$15 a person.~~

Upon payment of the required fee the person will be issued the applicable trail user pass.

41:03:05:06. Display of trail user pass. A trail user pass must be displayed or readily available for inspection if requested by a department representative. If a trail user on the George S. Mickelson Trail does not have a valid trail pass or is not able to display it or make it readily available upon request, the user shall obtain a daily or annual trail pass ~~an annual pass and shall pay the annual pass late fee.~~

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

41:03:05:02. Veterans Group Exemption

The Department of Game, Fish and Parks supports and appreciates our military veterans and service members. Currently, South Dakota veterans who have a 100% service related disability are

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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entitled to a free lifetime state park entrance license. Three years ago, the Game, Fish and Parks Commission expanded on this by approving a park entrance license exemption for veterans, National Guard and reserve unit members and veteran's hospital patients while participating in special events. Since then, state parks have hosted veteran's organization picnics, motorcycle ride-throughs, veteran's hospital outings, and National Guard recruitment weekends. The exemption also applies to family members and guests participating in the event. We would like to extend the veteran's group exemption to the Mickelson Trail pass requirement. Anticipated events would include group bicycle rides and walks and associated group gatherings at trailhead sites. Currently the only group exemption to the trail pass requirement is for resident nonprofit youth groups.

41:03:05:03 and 41:03:05:06. Trail Use Fee and Penalty for no Trail Pass

Mickelson Trail users that are 12 years of age or older, must have either an annual (\$15) or daily (\$4) trail use pass. Trail users that cannot display a pass are subject to a \$15 "late fee". Upon payment, they are issued an annual trail pass. This proposed change would eliminate the \$15 late fee and require that the trail user purchase either a \$4 daily trail pass or a \$15 annual pass.

APPROVE _____	MODIFY _____	REJECT _____	NO ACTION _____
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