

# RED SHIRT LAKE LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION



4330 Seeley Ct. Anchorage, AK. 99502

May 9, 2019

State of Alaska  
Department of Natural Resources  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ste 1360  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3557

Dear Commissioner Feige:

The Red Shirt Lake Landowners Association is writing to voice our concern over the recent Director's Order 296 raising fees that impact Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (NLSRA). Property owners in recent years have worked cooperatively with the Superintendent of NLSRA to develop policy and fees for boat storage in the area. Our association even paid for and built the campground host cabin at Red Shirt Lake in support of Parks to staff with volunteers to reduce vandalism and support Park maintenance activities. It is disappointing after 40 years of cooperative work with Parks that fees change an unreasonable 800% while at the same time reducing the level of services provided. We have been informed that a volunteer Park host will not be provided this year and will therefore not assist as in years past.

Current boat storage fees are \$50 every 2 years. The order increases the fee 800% with a \$100 application fee and a \$100 permit fee every year. Our Association worked cooperatively to implement fees and to identify abandoned boats with Parks. The initial clean-up is done and we are in maintenance mode. This fee increase seems to increase regulation and bureaucracy requirements by doubling boat sticker publishing, processing, fee collection, and mailing at a time when the administration talks about deregulation and bureaucracy reduction. With staff reduction, time would be better served performing activities that support park use and maintenance rather than office paper processing.

Current dock construction permit is a one-time \$50 fee for design review to insure compliance with dock construction requirements. The permit is good for the life of the dock until there is any alteration from original design. Again, our Association worked cooperatively with Parks to

develop the standards, process, and fees. The increase from \$50 for a one-time design review to \$200 annually for no service provided by Park staff seems totally unreasonable. With the current reduction in park staff and the fact that there previously were not enough resources to inventory docks, identify owners, and request permits it seems impractical to expand regulation that cannot be enforced. This again creates bureaucracy to support regulation that is not needed or requested by citizens.

Although it is our understanding the aircraft landing fees do not apply to lakes in NLSRA where aircraft operations are allowed, this again creates a fee for which reduced staff do not have resources to enforce. Why implement and unenforceable fee. This fee also penalizes an industry that always struggles to survive in a highly regulated environment.

We would like to reiterate the Association's 40 year history of working with Parks to accommodate private landowners to co-exist with access to public lands for all to enjoy while maintaining the remote feel of the area. We feel these fee increases diminish the use of the NLSRA, increase regulation in an environment of deregulation, and ties Park staff to bureaucratic activities rather than activities to enhance the experience of park users. Rather than dictated increased regulation, the question should be what services citizens want from State Parks to maintain or improve Park experience. These fee increases do not accomplish improved park experience and tie staff to paper pushing. Please reconsider these enormous fee increases and increased regulation. We believe the increased fees and increased regulations are in direct conflict with the Governors intentions and directions as well as contrary to the wishes of the members of the Red Shirt Lake Land Owners Association. When the cost of Parks is shifted to land owners of our association, levels of service are being reduced and existing trail infrastructure continues to suffer from deferred maintenance, we have a very difficult time understanding why we should fund and support a bigger State bureaucracy.

As always, we are available to assist.

Sincerely,

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President Red Shirt Lake Landowners Association  
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