

**To:**

The Honorable Jan Brewer  
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**To:**

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**Don't Wreck What Already Works Economically for AZ!**

In order to achieve about \$9 million in budget reductions, the state is destroying a \$290 million economic engine that supports local economies (taxes, rural economic development, JOBS!) throughout Arizona. This is simply economic suicide.

- Arizona State Parks attract 2.3 million visitors annually.\*
- Visitors to Arizona State Parks produce \$266 in direct and indirect economic impact in Arizona.\*
- Visitors to Arizona State Parks produce \$22.7 million in state and local taxes.\*
- It costs \$34 million annually to operate all 30 AZ State Parks and Natural Areas.\*\*
- The Arizona State Parks system creates nearly 10 times that much economic impact and receives no operating funds from state general fund taxes

Privatization is not the answer; it is a piecemeal approach that does not respond to the needs of the entire park system. Ours is a grand and viable system of state parks, including historic, scenic, conservation and recreation sites bound together for the cumulative benefit of the state's population and its tourism economy.

Governor's Task Force for Sustainable State Parks proposed reasonable and viable solutions. See [http://www.azparks.gov/publications/downloads/2009\\_Task\\_Force\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.azparks.gov/publications/downloads/2009_Task_Force_Final_Report.pdf)

I recommend that you support efforts to:

- Discontinue the transfer of monies from the Heritage Fund to the State Forester.
- Eliminate all of the Fund Reductions and Transfers and Excess Balance Transfers from December 2009 -- totaling about \$8.6 million.
- Allow Parks to keep all enhancement dollars for operations, including those being collected currently.
- Reject proposals for Fiscal Year 2011 that would divert all of the Heritage Fund dollars from State Parks or Game and Fish to the General Fund.
- Approve a vehicle registration fee that would provide open access to all state parks to all Arizona residents. Please approve [HB2628](#) or, if that is not acceptable to you, please approve [HCR2040](#)

Thank you for consider these suggestions.

\* 2007 Arizona State Parks Economic Impact Study by Northern Arizona University

\*\* The Price of Stewardship, The Future of Arizona's State Parks by Morrison Institute for Public Policy, Arizona State University