

Operations Review

November 2011



Photo by Nick D'Amato

Legislative Changes Affecting Operations Section

- Elimination of 18 positions
- Reduction in PARTF allocation affecting funding
- Concealed Carry Legislation GS 14-415.11
- Requests for Information

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Opin

Parks carry on

The possibility of charging admission to state parks and instituting other kinds of fees loomed larger this year as the General Assembly led by Republicans slashed budgets and let a one-cent on the dollar sales tax expire (despite the \$1 billion it would have brought in). However, although the state parks are indeed taking a hit, they're still open and they're still free.

These parks contribute about \$400 million in economic activity to nearby communities, and the 215,000 acres they cover are cherished by all North Carolinians. As budgets diminish, parks officials know they're going to fall behind in upkeep, which is a shame.

What is not a shame is the grit and determination shown by those officials, from rangers to others higher up in the bureaucracy, to protect an incomparable resource for the enjoyment of all, and for the first discoveries of nature by the youngest visitors. Have you hugged your tree today?

Despite Reductions our System Remains Strong

- Parks Report High Attendance.
- Local Support
- United Support

Where do we go from here?



Professionalism



Parks Honor Guard



Training



Interpretation and Education



Customer Service



Our Mission...

to protect North Carolina's **natural diversity**;

to provide and promote **outdoor recreation opportunities** throughout **North Carolina**;

to exemplify and encourage **good stewardship** of North Carolina's **natural resources** for all citizens and visitors.