Senator Maria Cantwell denounced the proposed national park fee increases and promised to fight them at a Monday press conference.

The National Park Service is floating a steep increase to entrance fees at 17 of its most popular sites next year. Visitors would be charged $70 per vehicle during peak season, up from the current $25 fee. Motorcycles would be charged $50, and individuals on foot or bike would be charged $30.

The parks department says the increases are necessary to address a maintenance backlog and infrastructure projects.

Sen. Cantwell called the increase “unconscionable” and said it would exclude some Americans and dissuade others from visiting Washington’s national parks.

“These are public lands, and they should be affordable for everyone,” Cantwell said.

“We will be looking to block this increase in any legislative fashion that we can before the end of the year,” she added.

The increase could also adversely impact Washington’s economy as visitors chose to go elsewhere. The parks are responsible for roughly 201,000 jobs in Washington and $7.6 billion in wages, $26 billion in consumer spending and $3.2 billion in state and local tax revenue.

“We don’t want a park fee that will be so detrimental to that economy,” Cantwell said.

The higher fees would apply during the five busiest, contiguous months. Peak season would be June through October at Mount Rainier and May through September at Olympic National Park.

The regular season fee would remain $25 per vehicle.

© 2017 KING-TV