

Alaska Department of Fish and Game(ADF&G)
Little Susitna Public Use Facility

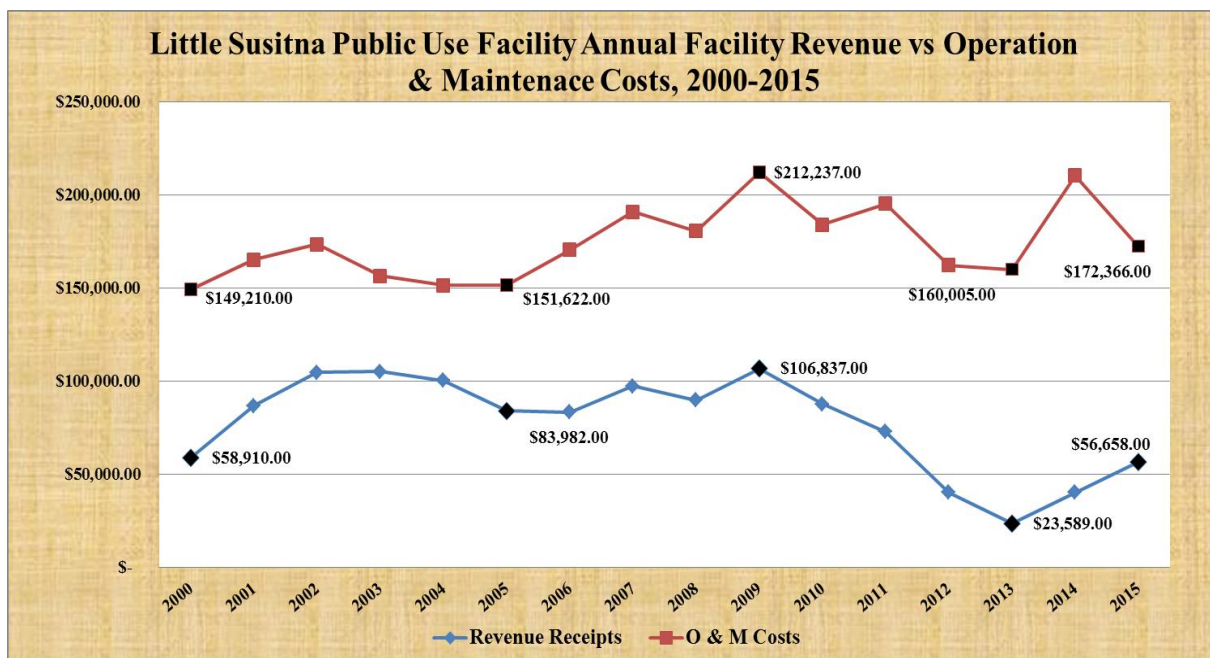
Frequently Asked Questions (Fee Schedule Change)

1. When was the last time the Fee Schedule was changed/amended at the Little Susitna Public Use Facility?

The present Fee Schedule was set in 2000 and has not been increased over the last 15 years.

2. How have Operation and Maintenance Costs changed?

The Little Susitna Public Use Facility is owned by ADF&G, but is managed and operated by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (State Parks) through an annually renewed cooperative agreement. Since it was constructed in 1990 overall facility related costs have increased significantly. Over this time, facility revenue receipts (user fees) collected at the Little Susitna Public Use Facility have helped off-set some of the operating costs, but they have never been able to fully cover all facility expenses. Compounding the issue, over the past several years the number of users, and thus the fees collected at the facility has been declining (please note chart).



3. If the Little Susitna Public Use Facility is a Fish and Game facility, then why is State Parks managing the facility?

ADF&G does not have the regulatory authority to operate and maintain public recreational facilities, nor does it have the law enforcement regulatory authority to manage the type of public use issues that occur. However, State Parks by regulation was established for management of public recreational facilities and is ideally trained for management and operational needs at this public use facility.

4. Why is the department raising user fees at Little Susitna Public Use Facility?

The operation and maintenance of the site is primarily funded by ADF&G, Division of Sport Fish, Boating and Angler Access Program to help offset the substantial difference in actual operating costs vs. revenue receipt/user fees collected at the facility. Due to increasing site costs, raising user fees is necessary to help make it as self-sustaining as possible. The fee increase will help to ensure that the facility remains open for the entire summer season and continues to provide safe public access by maintaining current operation and maintenance levels.

5. What will the additional fees be used for?

All user fees will continue to be used exclusively for daily management and operational services provided by State Parks. Services include overall site operation and maintenance, management of a double lane boat launch ramp, 40 site campground, RV dump station, fish cleaning table, barrier free angler trails, light-penetrating grate walkway, and river access/fishing platforms. There are also seven developed, boat-accessible campsites that are located along the river within the first four river miles upstream of the facility.

6. Is the fee increase correlated with the decline in Chinook salmon production?

No – While the decrease in use over the past few years, and subsequent loss of user fees can probably be attributed to low abundance of Chinook salmon, the fee increase is not meant to make up for those losses. Rather, the increase in fees will ensure the department is generating enough fees to cover the long term operation

and maintenance of the facility even after the Chinook salmon stock has rebounded.

7. How do the new fees compare to previous fees at the Little Susitna Public Use Facility, and the current Deshka Landing fee schedule?

<u>Services</u>	<u>Little Susitna Public Use Facility Fee Schedule</u>			<u>Private Landing Fee Schedule</u>		
<u>General Public</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed New Fee</u>		<u>Deshka Landing</u>		
Day Boat Launch and Parking Pass	\$10.00	\$15.00		\$30.00		
Annual Boat Launch and Parking Pass	\$150.00	\$200.00		\$450.00		
Day Vehicle Parking Pass	\$5.00	\$7.00		\$10.00		
Annual Vehicle Parking Pass	\$75.00	\$100.00		N/A		
Day Parking Unattached Boat Trailer Upper Parking Lot Pass	\$10.00	\$15.00		N/A		
Over Night Camping Pass	\$10.00	\$15.00		N/A		
Dump Station Per. Vehicle	\$3.00	\$10.00		N/A		
<u>Commercial Operator</u>						
Annual Boat Launch and Parking Pass	\$300.00	\$450.00		\$1,000.00		
Day Parking Unattached Boat Trailer Upper Parking Lot	\$10.00	\$15.00		N/A		

8. How did the department come up with the new fee schedule?

By comparing current State Parks, private, and other ADF&G fee schedules that provide comparable services.

9. Why do commercial operators pay higher user fees?

Commercial operators use the facility at a much higher frequency than individual season pass holders and daily user groups.

Commercial operators use a common property resource (belonging to the residents of the State of Alaska) and a common property facility (intended for general public use) to generate business income and make a living.