User Fees and Alternative Funding Options

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User Fees: Defined

Any fee, tax, or payment, direct or indirect, that must be paid to a facility owner/operator by a facility user, as a condition of use of the facility.

Some Examples:

• National Park entrance fee
• State Park camp-site fee
• Highway tolls
Suggestions on Potential Sources for Funding

- Entrance fees charged to visitors for access
- User fees charged to visitors for specified activities, or for use of specified facilities
- Concession contracts with businesses operating within the area
- Investment and sponsoring of specific facilities by the tourism industry
- Voluntary donations
- In-kind donations
Response to Comments in Original Environmental Impact Statement

Public Comment Received:
• Concern about funding Sanctuary management plan
• Suggest implementing user fees
• Do not implement user fees
• Propose using the Tourist Development Fund “bed tax”

Response to Comments:
• Hosted a user fee workshop
• Recognize shared management and funding
• Allow in-kind donations through extensive volunteer network
• Not seeking statutory authority to receive donations
• Not including user fees in the EIS due to public input
Develop innovative partnerships to provide funding that supports restoration activities. Funding could be provided through a range of mechanisms:

- donations
- user fees
- in-kind support for restoration practitioners
- mooring ball sponsorship programs
• Create a fund to support shallow water habitat restoration activities
Challenges to Implementation

Administration

• Who collects funds?
• How are funds and fees collected?
• Would we have permit system?
• What is the necessary funding to administer and enforce program and generate revenue stream?

Enforcement

• Is this a priority activity for officers?
• How do you control access to ocean?
Open Discussion

Recommendations for Staff to analyze and bring back for deliberation and decision?