

# READING FILE



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK  
Highway 63, #1 Park Road  
PO Box 640201  
Bryce Canyon, UT 84764-0201



In Reply Refer To:

D5019

## Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Intermountain Region  
From: Superintendent, Bryce Canyon National Park  
Subject: Disposable Plastic Bottle Reduction and Recycling Update

On December 14, 2011, Director Jarvis issued policy on the recycling and reduction of disposable plastic water bottles in parks. The policy stated "where appropriate, superintendents may request approval from the regional director to eliminate the sale of water in disposable plastic bottles by analyzing and addressing the following factors in writing." By copy of this memorandum, Bryce Canyon National Park is requesting approval to eliminate the sale of individual plastic disposable bottles. Attached are 2 spreadsheets that address each point of evaluation articulated in the Policy Memorandum 11-3.

At Bryce Canyon, this will be a phased approach to monitor the efficacy of improving visitor use of new filling stations to be installed in Spring 2014. A principle safety issue for the park is visitor hydration and international visitors are sometimes reluctant to use other than bottled water. A "hydration campaign" is being launched in cooperation with Bryce Canyon Natural History Association (BCNHA) and Forever Resorts (concessioner) to educate and promote hydration and the use of re-usable water bottles, rather than disposable bottles. As this will be a phased, monitored approach, we are not requiring BCNHA and Forever Resorts to eliminate bottled water sales immediately, rather they agreed to do so while we monitor the program's effectiveness for visitor safety. They have indicated their long-term desire to eliminate sales as well, once we establish the educational and operational means that are most effective.

At the same time, working with the WASO and Regional Partnership Offices, the park and BCNHA are proposing to enter into a corporate campaign agreement with Vapur, Inc. and Elkay, Inc. to promote sustainability and hydration. Vapur manufactures reusable plastic water bottles and Elkay manufactures water filling stations. Details of this agreement, 2 years in the making, will be forthcoming to your office very soon.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at 435-834-4700.

*Jeffrey S. Bradybaugh*  
Jeff Bradybaugh

Attachments

Recommend Concurrence:

*Laura E. Joss* 2/20/14  
Laura E. Joss, Deputy Regional Director

Concur:

*Sue E. Masica* 2/21/14  
Sue E. Masica, Regional Director

TAKE PRIDE  
IN AMERICA



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
SALINAS PUEBLO MISSION NATIONAL MONUMENT  
PO Box 517  
Mountainair, New Mexico 87036



In Reply Refer To:

A7217

November 20, 2014

Memorandum

To: Director, Intermountain Region

From: Superintendent, Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument

Subject: Request for Approval to Eliminate the Sale of Water in Disposable Plastic Bottles

Per the director's policy to recycle and reduce disposable plastic bottles in National Parks, Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument has completed an analysis of the potential effects of ending the vending of disposable water bottles in the park.

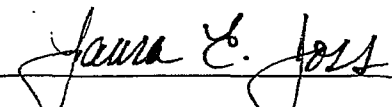
There are no concession food service operations at any of our locations. We have one vending machine at each of the three resource sites operated by the Salinas Pueblo Missions Employee's Association to sell bottled beverages including water as a visitor convenience. The Salinas Pueblo Missions Employee's Association will no longer sell water in the vending machines. The employee's association uses funds to supply the Abo site with free water bottles to the visiting public due to the lack of potable water at the site. When Abo's water system becomes safe for visitor consumption we fully intend to eliminate the sale and distribution of disposable water bottles within the monument.

Attached is the analysis of potential impacts/effects on bottle ban. Based on our analysis the park seeks your concurrence with the proposal.


  
Glenn M. Fulfer

Attachment

Recommend Concurrence:

 11/24/2014  
Laura E. Joss, Deputy Regional Director, IMR

Concur:

  
Sue Masica, Regional Director, IMR

# **Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument**

## **Analysis of potential impacts/effects on bottle ban**

### **1. Amount of waste eliminated and pros/cons to overall park operations**

By volume, Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (SAPU) could eliminate up to 15% of what is currently recycled and up to 10% of the park's overall waste stream.

#### **Pros:**

- Decreases the amount of plastics going into landfills
- Savings of resources used during the transportation and processing of waste and recyclables
- Reduces risk of animals ingesting pieces of plastic bottles
- Decreases potential release of toxic chemicals such as BPA.

#### **Cons:**

- The Abo visitor center does not have potable water so in turn we offer bottled water as a courtesy to visitors. (Due to the location of the site it would not be cost effective to have a company bring water and service an office type water cooler to meet NPS health and safety standards.)
- Bottled water is a high profit margin item in the vending machines. (This money goes into an employee association account which contributes to the free courtesy water bottles at Abo)

### **2. Infrastructure Cost and funding sources for filling stations**

Based on prices of 3 filling stations and associated cost (including labor cost and additional tools/ items needed) the construction of filling stations is an estimated \$45,000. Funding resources would include base funding, PMIS project funding, and funds provided by WNPA.

### **3. Contractual implications on concessioners, including considerations of new leaseholder surrender interest or possessory interest**

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument does not currently have any concessionaires or contractual agreement for any group involved with the sale of bottles beverages including water.

### **4. Operational cost of filling stations including utilities and regular public health testing.**

The park estimates that it will spend about \$70 a year per filling station for a total of \$210 a year.

### **5. Cost and availability of BPA- free reusable containers:**

WNPA does not currently sell reusable containers except for mugs. The least expensive mug is \$11.99. WNPA will sell reusable water bottles again if there is an interest or need in the park.

### **6. Effect on concessioner and cooperating association sales revenue.**

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument has only one cooperation association (Salinas Pueblo Missions Employees Association) that sells water. The association has been notified and will no longer

sell water once the stock runs out. However the Salinas Pueblo Missions Employees Association will still provide free water bottles to the public at the Abo site due to the lack of potable water.

Water being sold during park events has been beneficial to both the Employee's association and the visiting public, but the absence of the product should not dramatically affect the function of the association.

**7. Availability of water within concessioner food service operations.**

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument does not currently have any concessionaires or contractual agreement for any group involved with the sale of bottles beverages including water.

**8. Visitor Education in the park and online so that visitors may come prepared with their own water bottles**

Once the park sells the remaining stock of water bottles we will begin to hand out materials and provide online education about the our initiative to reduce and eventually phase out the sale of plastic bottled beverages at our sites.

**9. Results of consultation with NPS Public Health Office.**

Mountainair, Gran Quivira and Quarai all have potable water which meets or exceeds the standards of the NPS Public Health Office. The Abo water system is not available for public consumption due to the possible influence of surface water and evidence of micro-particulates.

**10. A sign plan so that visitors can easily find filling stations.**

Funding for signs will be added into the total cost of the PMIS project.

**11. Safety Considerations for visitors who may resort to not carrying enough water or drinking from surface water sources with potential exposure to disease.**

At the three resource sites we have bags set up for minor search and rescue incidents. In the bags we have fire fighter type water bottles that can be used by visitors in case of an emergency. Our longest trail is at Quarai and is approximately 1 mile round trip and water is available via water fountain and faucet.

**12. A system for annual evaluation of the program, including public response, visitor satisfaction, buying behavior, public safety, and plastic collection rates.**

On an annual basis the park would monitor and collect the following data:

- Public Response and Visitor Satisfaction – collecting comment forms and visitor satisfaction surveys
- Buying Behavior – We will track WNPA reusable water bottle sells and soda sells in the vending machines.
- Public Safety – CDSO and Zone Safety officers will keep a log of any water related safety issue.
- Plastic Collection Rates – Maintenance will track collection rates.

**13. Results of consultation with concessioners and cooperating associations.**

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument has only one cooperation association (Salinas Pueblo Missions Employees Association) that sells water. The association has been notified and will no longer sell water once the stock runs out. However the Salinas Pueblo Missions Employees Association will still provide free water bottles to the public at the Abo site due to the lack of potable water.

**14. Timeline of phase period.**

Once the park has the proper funding for the water filling stations and an additional filter to ensure Abo has potable water the park will be eliminating all one time use water bottles from the park.

Evaluation Points		Park Response
1.	Amount of waste eliminated and pros/cons to overall park operations	Several hundred pounds of empty water bottles waste eliminated from sales at General Store and Lodge Gift Shop(concessioner) and Visitor center ( natural history assoc.). Given the low weight of plastic disposable water bottles, it is not likely to show substantial changes; however some diversion can be tracked with point specific inspections. A phased approach will be taken as part of a "hydration campaign" to assure that visitors don't forego hydration or switch to less healthy alternatives of pre-packaged drinks.The park is pursuing installation of multiple filling stations while working with its <del>concessionaire and cooperating association on eliminating</del>
2.	Infrastructure costs and funding source(s) for filling stations	A corporate campaign agreement is nearing final signatures that will establish discounted rates for filling stations to be purchased by Bryce Canyon Natural History Association (NHA). NHA will donate the filling stations they purchase to the park. Installation and maintenance will be conducted by the park to meet public health standards. Costs to the park: Installation will be via Franchise Fee funds (\$6000). Annual maintenance (\$1500) via base funds
3.	Contractual implications on concessioners, including consideration of new leaseholder surrender interest or possessory interest	No Leaseholder surrender interest will be incurred through the installation of filling stations purchased by NHA, donated to the park and installed by park staff. Contractual implications may be a modification to the contract, following initial phase-in, changing the concessionaire's ability to sell disposable plastic bottles; however <del>the concessionaire and NHA are willingly participating in the</del>
4.	Operational costs of filling stations including utilities and regular public health testing	The 6 filling stations would replace existing drinking fountains, some of which are no longer operational; accordingly, the regular public health testing would be very close to existing conditions. Operational cost will rise an approximate \$100 per station or \$600 overall for the <del>park. One station will involve repair of a water line estimated at</del>
5.	Cost and availability of BPA-free reusable containers	Both the concessionaire and the NHA currently sell a range of BPA free reusable water bottles (price range ~\$4 - \$25)

12.	Results of consultation with concessioners and cooperating associations	Both the concessionaire and the NHA supporting the park to eliminate disposable plastic bottles in the near future, promote use of filling stations and increase the hydration messaging. Once the <u>filling stations are in place, the sale of disposable plastic bottles will</u>	
13.	Timeline of phase-in period	We will be able to start installing filling stations this spring (2014) with phase out of the sale of disposable plastic bottles within a year based on success in getting international and domestic visitors accustomed to using filling stations.	
14.	<b>Annual Evaluation plan for:</b>		
	Public Response	Park visitors have been very supportive of park sustainability programs and have often asked why we have disposable water bottle sales in the park. At nearby Zion NP public response has been overwhelmingly positive; the ZION program has been in place for several years. Both ZION and BRCA share many of the same visitors, so public response here at BRCA is expected to be similar to that experienced at ZION. The visitor comment card program will be used to help track public response. In addition, annual visitor satisfaction surveys are conducted that should provide data on facility and sustainability satisfaction compared to long-term averages for the same survey. Further, the concessioner has a robust visitor comment card program in which thousands of concession-users participate annually. These can be monitored to assess any changes in satisfaction relative to water availability, messaging and <u>sustainability aspects of the program.</u>	
	Visitor Satisfaction	Annual visitor satisfaction surveys are conducted that should provide data on satisfaction compared to long-term averages for the same survey. Further, the concessioner has a robust visitor comment card program in which thousands of concession-users participate annually. These can be monitored to assess any changes in satisfaction relative to water availability, messaging and sustainability aspects of the <u>program.</u>	