

Office of Regulatory Management  
Economic Review Form

<b>Agency name</b>	DWR
<b>Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)</b>	4VAC15-20
<b>VAC Chapter title(s)</b>	Definitions and Miscellaneous: In General
<b>Action title</b>	May 2026 – Ch. 20
<b>Date this document prepared</b>	5/29/2026
<b>Regulatory Stage (including Issuance of Guidance Documents)</b>	Proposed Exempt

**Cost Benefit Analysis**

Complete Tables 1a and 1b for all regulatory actions. You do not need to complete Table 1c if the regulatory action is required by state statute or federal statute or regulation and leaves no discretion in its implementation.

Table 1a should provide analysis for the regulatory approach you are taking. Table 1b should provide analysis for the approach of leaving the current regulations intact (i.e., no further change is implemented). Table 1c should provide analysis for at least one alternative approach. You should not limit yourself to one alternative, however, and can add additional charts as needed.

Report both direct and indirect costs and benefits that can be monetized in Boxes 1 and 2. Report direct and indirect costs and benefits that cannot be monetized in Box 4. See the ORM Regulatory Economic Analysis Manual for additional guidance.

**Table 1a: Costs and Benefits of the Proposed Changes (Primary Option)**

<p>(1) Direct &amp; Indirect Costs &amp; Benefits (Monetized)</p>	<p>Direct Costs: Section 65: These increased license fees in section 65 would cost residents \$5 per license privilege annually and nonresidents up to \$50 per license privilege annually. Section 155: The new camping permit fee would cost campers an additional \$10 since current fee is now \$0.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: None</p> <p>Direct Benefits: Section 65: Will generate an estimated \$6.39M in annual revenue to the Department that is much needed to keep up with personnel and operating expenses that allow maintenance of DWR facilities, promotion of programs, retaining of personnel to fill vacancies, and support programs to enhance wildlife management and habitats. Section 155: Would generate an estimated \$23,450 annually in revenue to support staffing and efforts on Department-owned lands.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: Keeping positions filled, facilities maintained, and wildlife management programs running efficiently with needed funding will support the Department’s responsiveness to the public as well as promote an overall better product that the Department provides to all citizens of the Commonwealth.</p>	
<p>(2) Present Monetized Values</p>	<p>Direct &amp; Indirect Costs</p>	<p>Direct &amp; Indirect Benefits</p>
	<p>(a) listed above</p>	<p>(b) Section 65: additional revenue will help to support the economic impact of fishing, hunting, and boating, which are estimated to contribute \$3.2 billion, \$1.2 billion, and \$4.4 billion, respectively, to the Virginia economy annually. Section 155: Increased demands by Virginians for natural places in which to recreate continues to put pressures on DWR lands. The 2024 Virginia Outdoors Plan corroborates this outcome, noting that 82% of respondents to the Virginia Outdoors Survey indicated that access to the outdoors was very important to them and that “natural areas” (i.e. undeveloped) were the most needed outdoor recreation asset (47% of respondents). This new revenue stream would help support this interest in enjoying Virginia’s conservation lands.</p>
<p>(3) Net Monetized Benefit</p>	<p>Department can continue to provide staff support, maintenance of Department-owned lands, and wildlife management programs to citizens</p>	

	in Virginia that supports the positive economic impacts that outdoor recreational programs provide to the Virginia economy.
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	N/A
(5) Information Sources	DWR data

**Table 1b: Costs and Benefits under the Status Quo (No change to the regulation)**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: All Department divisions were targeted to enter FY27 under a 10% reduction in expenditures to accommodate a lean budget scenario, with many vacancies being held open to meet needed budget demands based on current revenues and shortfalls from FY26.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: Reduced funding will decrease Department exposure and services offered to Virginia’s hunters and fishermen as well as the camping community that desires to camp on Department-owned lands. In FY26, the Department was faced with having to decide to cut portable toilets and road gravel maintenance on many WMAs. Not receiving this new funding will increase the changes these cuts remain or increase in the future.</p> <p>Direct Benefits: There is no direct benefit to department not receiving increased revenue from increasing license fees and implementing a new camping authorization fee.</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: There are none</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) N/A	(b) N/A
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	N/A	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	N/A	
(5) Information Sources	N/A	

**Table 1c: Costs and Benefits under Alternative Approach(es)**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs &	Direct Costs: There is no alternative approach
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Benefits (Monetized)	Indirect Costs:  Direct Benefits:  Indirect Benefits:	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b)
(3) Net Monetized Benefit		
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)		
(5) Information Sources		

**Impact on Local Partners**

Use this chart to describe impacts on local partners. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

**Table 2: Impact on Local Partners**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	Direct Costs: It is not anticipated that these new and increased fees will impact local partners such as industry partners or localities.  Indirect Costs:  Direct Benefits:  Indirect Benefits:	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b)
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)		

(4) Assistance	
(5) Information Sources	

**Impacts on Families**

Use this chart to describe impacts on families. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

**Table 3: Impact on Families**

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: Section 65: These fee hikes would cost Virginia hunters and fishermen an additional \$5 per year for each license privilege, and an extra \$50 per year for nonresidents.</p> <p>Section 155: Families that desire to camp on Department-owned lands will now need to pay \$10 instead of going for free.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: While not expected to exceed a 3% churn rate, the added cost of obtaining various camping, hunting, or fishing privileges could lead to some families deciding to not camp on Department-owned lands or to purchase hunting or fishing licenses.</p> <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <p>Indirect Benefits:</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b)
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)		
(4) Information Sources		

**Impacts on Small Businesses**

Use this chart to describe impacts on small businesses. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

**Table 4: Impact on Small Businesses**

<p>(1) Direct &amp; Indirect Costs &amp; Benefits (Monetized)</p>	<p>Direct Costs: It is not anticipated that these increased fees will impact local businesses, as they have had to raise prices due to the same economic factors that have affected the Department and thus understand that most customers who desire to spend money on outdoor recreation will continue to do so, even at increased costs.</p> <p>Indirect Costs:</p> <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <p>Indirect Benefits:</p>	
<p>(2) Present Monetized Values</p>	<p>Direct &amp; Indirect Costs</p>	<p>Direct &amp; Indirect Benefits</p>
	<p>(a)</p>	<p>(b)</p>
<p>(3) Other Costs &amp; Benefits (Non-Monetized)</p>		
<p>(4) Alternatives</p>		
<p>(5) Information Sources</p>		