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**Date:** 11/10/2016 10:10:23 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Update on State Parks

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KV and HM –

FYI ....

Amy

Amy D. Duffy  
Chief of Staff  
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**From:** Duane Parrish  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 09, 2016 2:21 PM  
**Cc:** Austin Smith (austinsmith@gov.sc.gov) <austinsmith@gov.sc.gov>; Amy Duffy <aduffy@scprt.com>  
**Subject:** Update on State Parks

Members of the Beaufort, Colleton and Charleston Legislative Delegations:

I wanted to provide you with an update on the status of our state parks that were impacted during Hurricane Matthew.

On October 9, 18 state parks suffered damage from the storm and were temporarily closed. Currently, 16 of the 18 have re-opened and much of the damage has been repaired. A few exceptions include a failed dam at Little Pee Dee State Park, the fishing pier and some boardwalks at Myrtle Beach, and the causeway sidewalk / walkway at Huntington Beach.

As you know, both Edisto Beach and Hunting Island state parks were devastated by the storm and their full recovery will take some time. However, we are expecting to open portions of Edisto Beach on November 18. Unfortunately, the severe damage sustained to the oceanfront campground at Edisto Beach will require a partial re-build to this area. We project that this campground to be closed until September 1, 2017.

Hunting Island, by far, was impacted more than any other state park. I have surveyed the damage first-hand, and the destruction is overwhelming. Our goal is to work diligently to open the north day-use area near the Hunting Island Lighthouse sometime during spring 2017. We are also working towards an early summer 2017 opening of the campground situated away from the ocean. The beachfront campground will require reconstruction; to include the demolition and rebuilding of at least two comfort stations. Unfortunately, this will take some time and our anticipated recovery of this area will be spring of 2018.

With this in mind, we will, this week, begin informing our customers who have booked reservations at these parks that their reservations will be cancelled and full refunds issued. At Hunting Island, all camping reservations will be refunded through May 21, 2017. Additionally, all reservations for the oceanside campground at Hunting Island, we will be refunding through December 2017. At Edisto Beach we will fully refund reservations for the oceanside campground through August 31, 2017.

For these affected customers, we will also be offering a promotional code for a 15% discount on any state park camping reservation for the next 13 months as long as the reservations are made prior to the end of this calendar year.

I wanted you to know our plans prior to us notifying these customers in the coming days. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support of South Carolina's State Parks.

Duane

**Duane Parrish**

Director

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