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(S.D.)- Governor Says State Can Run Wind Cave Campground



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 03/12/2013 02:45 PM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is asking the National Park Service to let the state run the campground at Wind Cave National Park.

The federal agency has said that the 64-site Elk Mountain Campground would be closed through the 2013 season because of budget cuts.

Daugaard says in a letter to National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis that the state "would be pleased" to operate the campground this year.

The Republican governor says he believes the state could make money on the facility because 6,600 people camped there last year.

Republican U.S. Sen. John Thune from South Dakota had earlier sent a letter to Jarvis questioning whether the park service is playing politics by intentionally trying to make the cuts more visible to the public.