



MISSISSIPPI
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PRESS RELEASE

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INMATE POPULATION DROP PROMPTS CHANGES AT TWO PRISONS

JACKSON - The Mississippi Department of Corrections is saving \$1.4 million in its private prison program for fiscal 2015 thanks to a drop in the state inmate population.

The population decrease also has allowed the agency to address staffing shortages and overtime at one of the three state-operated prisons.

MDOC has amended its current contract with Management & Training Corp. (MTC) for operating Walnut Grove Correctional Facility in Leake County primarily because of the declining inmate population. The change also helps to ensure the agency stays in compliance with a 2012 federal consent decree.

The number of inmates has been reduced from 1,300 to 962.

“Failure to do so would have unnecessarily cost taxpayer money,” said Corrections Commissioner Marshall Fisher.

The inmate reduction at Walnut Grove came the same week 186 inmates were moved from South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville. The change was made in response to the concerns from staff and the community about safety at the prison.

“The inmates from both prisons have been distributed among other facilities throughout the state,” Fisher said. “Both moves are to provide effective security, custody and control of inmates and to ensure the safety of staff.”

SMCI, opened in 1989, is the newest of the three state-run prisons. It now houses 2,491 inmates.

Walnut Grove is one of the four privately run prisons operated by Utah-based MTC.

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