

Campsite Competition Discussion

Purpose & Past Input

The Agencies promised to work on the Campsite Competition issue in the future with the users at the November 2011 User Meeting. At that meeting and the November 2012 User Meeting we attempted to identify the problem and entertain some solutions.

The **purpose** of the Campsite Competition discussion at the January 23, 2013 meeting is:

- To gain a better understanding of the situation.
- To consider questions we need answered to define the problem.
- To consider relatively uncomplicated solutions (“low hanging fruit”) to improve the situation on the river.
- To avoid unintended consequences.

To help this discussion move forward from past discussions we will summarize past input, the current situation and some new information.

Past Input (Sources - Nov 2011 Outfitter Meeting Minutes, Jan 2012 User Meeting Minutes, Nov 2012 User Meeting Minutes and unsolicited comments [letters to BLM and blog / 2008 & 09]):

Issues

1. Determining appropriate size camp for groups and educating them about how to choose
2. Small groups not sharing large sites with other groups
3. Small and Large groups competing for sites with outhouses
4. Too many groups for physical capacity, more small groups today than in the past
5. Campsite competition is a supply problem
6. Group sizes on Rogue do not match campsite sizes
7. Small groups take large camps
8. Commercial group size (90% of groups greater than 12 is thought to be commercial)
9. Too many groups overall
10. How many noncommercial groups stay at lodges
11. Disparate usage of campsites that have toilets
12. Rabbit boating is a problem
13. Commercial outfitters are saving multiple campsites
14. First come first served language may contradict management intention for campsite usage given group size

Suggestions

1. Implement a reservation system (for all groups, large camps only, optional for groups, could be partial reservation system)

2. Reservation system not possible without extensive study, input. Potential carrying capacity study. Probable NEPA, all alternatives studied.
3. Don't Implement a campsite reservation system
4. Limit use to number of groups rather than number of people
5. Continue with commercial and noncommercial groups voluntarily placing their choices of campsites on white board
6. Expand Lodge space
7. Increase number of campsites
8. List campsites available for small, medium, and large groups
9. Keep groups together (commercial and noncommercial)
10. Reduce total group size
11. Require small groups to share large camps w/ large groups
12. Look at areas where we can enlarge large sites or create new sites (Mule Creek, Cape Coma, Hewitt Creek, the sandbars that have come/gone over years). Get volunteers.
13. Education at Rand: all users have a right to use any section of any camp. Groups can share campsites and we should encourage sharing campsites.
14. Include GPS coordinates on river maps
15. Post signs at camps with camp name and river mile
16. Post signs at highly desired camps with camp name and capacity. (Whisky Cr, Missouri Bend, Horseshoe Bend, ½ Moon Bar)
17. Increase user awareness of the scarcity of large sites
18. Increase user awareness of river etiquette, i.e. sharing sites and leave large sites for large groups
19. Eliminate layovers
20. Eliminate layovers at highly desired large camps
21. Eliminate toilets from all river camps.
22. Eliminate toilets from large river camps
23. Need more toilets at river camps overall
24. Need more toilets at smaller camps
25. Replace toilets with privacy screens
26. Create a 'toilet sponsor' program for toilet maintenance
27. Small groups are using large sites due to toilets
28. Hikers using toilets at small river camps is a problem: put more toilets along north bank at smaller sites & initiate \$5.00 hiker fee
29. Increase fees to fund patrols to control toilet paper gardens and fire ring