

BLM Coyote Buttes North Daily Lottery (The Wave) FAQs

Q1. Why is the BLM moving the daily, in-person permits for The Wave to a virtual, web-based geofence system?

The new system provides the public with a more convenient, customer friendly application process. Applicants are no longer required to arrive on site at 8:30 a.m., stand in line to apply and wait to receive the results of the lottery. This also helps improve public health and safety by eliminating the need for large groups of people to gather on site.

Visitors can now simply apply for a daily permit to The Wave through the mobile app from within the designated geofence perimeter and then continue to travel and enjoy other recreation activities in the area for the 24-hour period in which applications are submitted. Visitors do not need to remain in the geofence area, as applicants will receive results directly on their mobile device (smartphone or tablet). If successful, visitors return to one of the permit offices to obtain permits, attend the mandatory safety briefing and prepare resources and logistics for this remote, wilderness hike.

Q2. Where do I access the geofence area to apply for daily permits? What towns or locations are within the geofence area?

A. BLM collaborated with the City of Page, Coconino County Arizona, Kanab City and Kane County Utah regarding the geofence boundary. The geofence area includes the following towns or communities in Arizona: Page, Greenhaven, Marble Canyon, Vermilion Cliffs, AZ, Jacob Lake, White Sage, Fredonia, Moccasin, and the Kaibab Paiute Indian Reservation. The towns or communities in Utah are: Big Water, Paria, Johnson Canyon, Kanab, Mt. Carmel, Orderville, Glendale and East Zion.

Q3. How large is the geofence perimeter?

A. The geofence area extends 2,093,785 acres or 3,272 square miles between Page, AZ in the east, to East Zion in the west, to Jacob Lake in the south. [See the Geofence perimeter map for reference.](#)

Q4. How many geofence areas are there for daily permits to The Wave?

A. There is only one geofence area which is created from multiple points with a radius extending from each point. These multiple circles are then combined into one polygon.

Q5. Once visitors apply within the geofence, do visitors have to remain within the geofence area to receive the notification? Can applicants continue travelling to other locations outside the geofence area and receive notification if they have won a permit?

A. No, customers do not have to remain within the geofence area to receive notice that their application succeeded or was unsuccessful in obtaining a daily hiking permit. Customers only

need to be in the geofence area to apply. Once they apply to the lottery, they are free go anywhere else and will still receive notifications. Successful applicants will, however, be required to pick up permits and attend an in-person safety briefing within an allotted time.

Q6. How does the geofence system work?

A. A lottery application period is opened at a designated time for each recreation opportunity (Example: wilderness permit, special event, high-demand campground, etc.), and requires applicants to submit an online application from within the geofence perimeter during this time frame. Successful and unsuccessful lottery applicants will be notified following the application period. Often, there are additional steps that the successful lottery winners must follow to secure and pay for the reservation.

Each lottery application has a reservation fee, required whether you are successful or not in securing a reservation through the lottery. If you receive a successful lottery award, there are also additional recreation fees associated with the permit, location, or activity.

Q7. Example of how to apply for, receive notification, and obtain a permit through the geofence process.

Step 1: Download the [Recreation.gov mobile app](https://www.recreation.gov/mobile-app) (<https://www.recreation.gov/mobile-app>) or enter the web address for Recreation.gov on your mobile device browser.

Step 2: Ensure you are within the [geofence perimeter](#). Open the Recreation.gov mobile app or navigate to Recreation.gov on your mobile device browser and search for “Coyote Buttes North Daily Lottery (The Wave).”

Step 3: The daily lottery application period is two days in advance of the desired hiking date. Example: If you want to hike on May 4, you will need to apply on May 2.

Step 4: Applicants will receive notification of results late on the application date. Check the email address associated with your Recreation.gov account or login to your Recreation.gov account to view your award status. Example: If you applied May 2, you will be notified via email or may see your status in your recreation.gov account on the evening of May 2.

Step 5: Successful applicants will need to login to their Recreation.gov account, accept the awarded permit and pay the permit fees before 8am MT the next day (the day after you applied). IF you do not accept and pay for your awarded permit by 8am MT, the following day, it will be forfeited. Example: If you applied on May 2, you need to accept and pay for your permit before 8am MT on May 3.

Step 6: Pick up your permit at one of the permitting offices/designated pick-up locations identified in your email notification and attend the mandatory safety briefing before 8:30am MT the day before your awarded hike date. Example: If you’ve been awarded a permit to hike on May 4, you will pick up your permit and attend the mandatory safety briefing before 8:30am on May 3.

Q8. Why can't I use my desktop or laptop computer to apply to a geofence lottery?

A. A mobile device is the only technology that can be used when applying for a geofence lottery on Recreation.gov. Once a visitor navigates to the desired facility page on Recreation.gov and location services are enabled, the mobile device's GPS technology will validate whether the visitor is within the geofence.

Desktop or laptop computers cannot be used because although these devices may have location services, these features are not reliably accurate and present a greater risk for fraudulent location services activity. A mobile device's location service feature allows the geofence interface to pinpoint an applicant's required location reliably and accurately.

Q9. How will those who do not have a cell phone be able to apply?

A. The BLM is working with and is encouraging city and county tourism offices within the geofence areas to host tablet kiosks for those who do not have a tablet or a smart phone device to be able to apply. The BLM also plans to work with and encourage licensed outfitters to provide tablets to allow clients without tablets or smart phones to be able to apply.

Due to IT security issues and other concerns, BLM cannot provide any tablets or other mobile devices that are connected to the agency's internal systems. BLM does not take payment by phone for permit applications to safeguard the privacy and financial security of members of the public.

Q10. How reliable and secure is this new online service?

- Recreation.gov meets all Federal government requirements for system security, privacy protection and financial transactions. Recreation.gov is committed to protecting the privacy of customers.
- Recreation.gov acquired an Authority to Operate (ATO), which is required of any government system that transmits, stores or processes data. With the ATO in place, Recreation.gov participating agencies benefit from rigorous security procedures completed to meet this requirement.
- Recreation.gov strives to meet a level of reliability which requires the website to have very little downtime. The system is reliably available 24/7.

Q11. Does my information get cached when I apply?

A. Recreation.gov does not store the visitor's location. This is a one-time validation process. This is a common experience and is comparable to the technology used by rideshare apps. Using mobile device GPS, the app locates and assigns drivers based on their proximity to the user.

Q12: If I'm unable to obtain a permit for The Wave through the daily lottery system, are there other ways to apply?

Yes. You can apply for the advanced lottery online [here](#). Visitors apply for permits to hike on the calendar month 4 months ahead through this system. Example: Apply Jan 1-31 to obtain a permit to hike during the month of May. More info here:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-passes/lotteries-and-permit-systems/arizona/coyote-buttessouth#FAQ>

Q13. What is the plan for Coyote Buttes South?

A. Currently, the new daily, geofence permit system only applies to permits for Coyote Buttes North (The Wave). The Bureau of Land Management, working with recreation.gov, plans to transition Coyote Buttes South permits to the geofence system in the future as well to improve the efficiency and safety of the permit delivery system for visitors.

Q14. How can the public comment on this change?

A. The method of permit application and delivery is a day-to-day business management decision that does not require but welcomes public input. The BLM held a public comment period on the Business Plan from July 15-Oct. 16, 2015, which included a proposal to shift the in-person lottery to an online system. The BLM is currently collaborating with stakeholders and partners including Kane, Utah and Coconino, Arizona counties.

Q15. Will licensed guides be able to apply for permits for their clients through the geofence system?

A. If a visitor hires a guide and does not have permits then the guide will have to obtain a permit for themselves as well as those obtained for the visitor. So, in the case when a guide obtains permits from visitors, the guide will count as one of the group, up to 6.

If, however, the visitor had already obtained a permit and thereafter hires a guide, the guide will not count against the permit holders' numbers. Adding a guide after the fact increases safety, minimizes the need for search and rescue efforts and encourages responsible wilderness ethics. In 2013 BLM implemented recommendations made through a third-party review to increase visitor safety which includes the use of licensed guides.

Q16. Could an SRP holder represent a visitor in the daily lottery online if the proposed plan is implemented?

A. Yes, this would be the same as the current system. Once implemented, it would work the same way the current walk-in lottery does. If a visitor hires a guide and does not have permits, then the guide would have to obtain a permit for themselves as well as those obtained for the visitor. If, however, the visitor had already obtained a permit and thereafter hires a guide, the guide will not count against the permit holders' numbers.

Q17. How can visitors pick up permits on weekends or holidays when the pick-up point may be closed?

A. The Daily Lottery (Geofence system) has two seasons—the main season from March 15 to November 15, and the winter season from November 16 to March 14. During the main season the lottery is held daily. During the winter season, applications are accepted from Monday through Thursday. Permits to hike Saturday, Sunday or Monday are all drawn on Thursday at 6pm. If a permit is awarded, it must be picked up at a permit pick-up location on Friday.