CAMPING PERMITS NOW REQUIRED IN RABBIT VALLEY

FACT SHEET

WHAT’S CHANGING IN RABBIT VALLEY?

In order to protect sensitive resources in McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area the Bureau of Land Management will no longer allow camping outside of designated campground sites in Rabbit Valley.

Rabbit Valley is a popular recreation destination for off-highway vehicle riding (OHV), four-wheel drive (4x4), all-terrain vehicles (ATV), utility terrain vehicles (UTV), dirt bikes, mountain biking, as well as hiking, horseback riding and camping. The area is also a point of access to the Utah Rims trail system (managed by BLM Moab Field Office).

A permit and future fee program are being implemented for overnight camping.

- Camping will only be allowed in the following campgrounds:
  - Jouflas
  - Knowles Overlook
  - High North
  - Newly renamed Fluffle Group Use Campground and Satellite Sites along the frontage road
  - Equestrian Campground (Coming Soon)

WHY?

The increase in camping demand is damaging sensitive resources including archaeology and rare plant species as well as impacting the camping experience. Expanding campgrounds helps conserve these sensitive resources. A permit system will allow us too:

- Accommodate & improve the increase in recreation use and opportunities.
- Reduce the impact to our sensitive resources.
- Provide education and information opportunities.

The BLM sought public input from the local community, consulted the Southwest Resource Advisory Council, and held public comment periods in 2018 and 2019.

- The Advisory Council passed a resolution recommending the project, including the future fee program

WHAT CHANGES CAN YOU EXPECT TO SEE?

To improve our management and best mitigate deterioration from the increase in demand for camping, the Bureau of Land Management:

- Has increased the number of designated campsites to a total of 71 sites.
  - 35 – 40 campsites will accommodate recreational vehicles and camp trailers.
  - Based on 4 years of monitoring, BLM believes 71 campsites will be enough to accommodate the current visitation levels and allow for some growth.

- Designated sites will be identified by a BLM sign and metal fire ring.
  - Metal fire rings were added distinguishing 22 campsites at the Fluffle Campground, this includes satellite sites along frontage road.
Picnic tables and metal fire rings were added to the 15 large sites at the High North campground, located north of I-70 exit 2.

Vault toilets were added to both Fluffle and High North Campgrounds.

- **Improved** and **expanded** the **Knowles Overlook** campground
  - Now includes 19 campsites for tents, vans, and small pop-up campers.

- A **free** self-issue permit will be required for overnight campers until the fee system is implemented. **Permit station will be found south of I-70 exit 2.**

### WHAT IS THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT CURRENTLY EXPECTING FROM OVERNIGHT CAMPERS?

Overnight campers will be required to stop at the free self-issue permit kiosk, located on the South side of I-70 exit 2. You may **only camp at designated sites** and may **not exceed the 7-day camping limit** in Rabbit Valley.

- Campers are **required** to fill out a self-issue permit while overnight camping in the area. Carbon copy should be **deposited** in the iron ranger located at the permit kiosk.

**Free dispersed camping** will still be available regionally on other BLM-managed lands.

- There are more than one million acres available for dispersed camping in our area.
- The nearby North Desert recreation area allows dispersed/undeveloped camping in most areas.

Checking in with BLM staff at the **Grand Junction Field Office**, 2815 H Road, is a great way to identify other options for recreation on public lands.

### WHAT’S UP WITH THE FUTURE FEES?

The Bureau of Land Management will transition to a fee and reservation system in the late spring of 2023 made available through [Recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

- Most sites will be $20/night with a **two vehicle limit**.
- Select group sites in the Fluffle campground will be able to hold up to a total of 5 vehicles.
  - Group sites will be $20/night for the first two vehicles and $10/night per **extra vehicle** with a **maximum of five vehicles** per site.
  - Vehicle will be defined as freeway legal transportation used to access the site (i.e. car, truck, or motorcycle). This does **NOT** include associated camper trailers, OHV trailers and OHVs (i.e. a truck hauling a trailer counts as one vehicle).

The fees will be used to maintain campgrounds, provide services for users, and the development and improvement of infrastructure including:

- Expansion of the Fluffle campground adding an additional 10 large sites.
- Construction of the future Equestrian Campground and trail head near the Jouflas horse trail, with horse trailer parking, corrals, and 4 campsites.
- Future new trail development.