



## 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:
  - Joufflas
  - 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 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**

- 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.