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Bureau of Land Management

News Release

BLM Colorado San Luis Valley Field Office
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BLM campgrounds in San Luis Valley now reservable online at Rec.Gov

MONTE VISTA, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management San Luis Valley Field Office is now accepting reservations for the Zapata Falls and Penitente Canyon campgrounds to improve campers’ experiences at these sites. Reservations for each campground may be made online at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

“We are offering reservations in response to the increased demand at both sites over the past few years,” said San Luis Valley Field Manager Melissa Garcia. “With the reservation system in place, campers can know that a site will be waiting for them before traveling to the campground.”

Zapata Falls Campground is known for its scenic views of the San Luis Valley, and its proximity to the Zapata Waterfall, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, and USFS Sangre de Cristo Wilderness Area. Zapata Falls campground has 24 reservable sites (one group site, 11 sites for tents only, and 12 RV sites).

Penitente Canyon campground near La Garita, CO is well known for its rock-climbing and mountain biking opportunities. Penitente Canyon Campground has 17 reservable sites (two group sites, three sites for tents only, and 12 RV sites).

Potable water is seasonally provided at Penitente Canyon Campground only; trash service is available on-site at both campgrounds. Campers are encouraged to bring plenty of water and must pack out their trash while in the backcountry. For more information about camping on BLM lands in the San Luis Valley Field Office, please call (719) 852-7074, or visit the field office website at <https://www.blm.gov/office/san-luis-valley-field-office>.

Fees at both campgrounds will remain at \$11 per night for individual sites, and \$20 per night for group sites. An additional reservation fee (\$8 online or \$9 by phone) also applies. Campers may only stay in the campground for 14 days at a time.

All campsites, at both campgrounds, are by reservation only. For individual sites, campers can make reservations up to six months in advance of their stay, and group sites can be reserved up to year in advance. Reservations of available sites can be made up to (and including) the day of arrival, by visiting the [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) website or by calling (877) 444-6777.

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 11 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency’s mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated \$111 billion in economic output across the country in fiscal year 2020—more than any other agency in the Department of the Interior. These activities supported more than 498,000 jobs.