

GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Ocean Beach Fire Program

September 2015



In order to correct the issues and concerns associated with recreational fires at Ocean Beach the NPS proposes to implement the fire permit system outlined below. The permit system and associated changes would be evaluated periodically and communicated with the public.

Information on the Ocean Beach Fire Program proposal and the public review and comment period can be found at: parkplanning.nps.gov/OBfireprogram

The program would consist of the following main components:

1. Permit Reservation System

- Would use the Recreation.gov system and be compatible with mobile devices
- Could be obtained online or over the phone through the call center
- Would be available for two time periods daily, from 10am-3pm and 4pm-9pm
- Would cost between \$25 and \$35
- Permits would be made available up to 30 days in advance, with the ability to make a reservation within a few hours prior to the permit beginning
- Draft Permit Conditions:
 - Required for all fire pits at all times
 - Group size would be limited to 25 persons, with larger groups required to go through the existing Special Use Permit (SUP) process
 - Non-transferable
 - Permit holder would be required to be present at all times
 - Minimum required age for permit signatory would be 18 years old
 - Security deposits would not be required; however, full permit cost would be due upon reservation
 - Existing permits would be cancelled and no further permits made available if a Spare the Air Day is in effect
 - Per Recreation.gov refund policy, while permit cost would be refunded upon cancellation, processing fees would not be refunded

2. City and County of San Francisco Support

- Thanks to the support of Supervisor Eric Mar, an allocation of \$185,000 has been given to San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department in the FY15-16 budget to support the beach fire program
- Will provide support for necessary maintenance, trash removal, and cleaning associated with the fires as well as outreach and education

3. Seasonal Restriction

- Beach fires would not be permitted from November through February
- During Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Winter Spare the Air Season
- Would also allow the park to marshal limited resources and properly evaluate results
- Allows for a comprehensive cleaning of the beach
- Would lessen overall environmental impact of beach fires on the beach ecosystem and air quality
- Improves health and wellness of employees who maintain and enforce the beach fire program