

Bandelier National Monument

Proposed Camping Fee Increase and Move to Partial Reservation System for Juniper Campground FAQs

How do I comment?

From March 26-April 26, the public can submit comments on the proposed changes to fees and campground operations at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/band115502>. You may also submit written comments via postal mail at:

Bandelier National Monument
Attn: Fee Office
15 Entrance Rd
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Why is it necessary to raise camping fees?

One hundred percent of fees for camping collected at Bandelier stay in Bandelier and are used on projects that directly impact campers. Bandelier last raised camping fees for individual campsites in 2005 and last raised fees for group campsites in 1995. During the time since the last fee increases, project, labor, and administrative costs have all increased substantially. The proposed camping fee increases are necessary to improve and maintain a high-quality camping experience at Bandelier.

How were the proposed fees determined?

Through comparability studies of area campgrounds. Campground comparability studies look at the amenities, price point, and available activities of similar campgrounds in the area and compare them to Juniper and Ponderosa Campground. Recent comparability studies showed that camping prices for both individual campsites and group campsites at Bandelier were below that of area campgrounds of similar size and amenities.

When will the proposed fees go into effect?

Bandelier National Monument is proposing the new camping fees go into effect October 1, 2023, with the launch of online reservations for Loop B & C campsites to begin in late summer or early fall 2023.

Will half priced camping still be offered to Senior and Access pass holders?

Yes! Bandelier will still honor a 50% discount at individual campsites to holders of Interagency Senior Passes (both Lifetime and Annual) and Interagency Lifetime Access Passes. The discount will continue to not apply to group campsites.

If I don't have a reservation can I still camp at Juniper campground?

Yes! Although Loops B & C will be available by reservation only, Loop A will be available exclusively for day-of campers, year-round. Loop A is home to 15 campsites, more than half of which have pull-in or pull-thru driveways of 30 feet or more, potable water, trash/recycling, and a comfort station with flush toilets and running water.

If I don't have a reservation and Loop A is full, will I be able to camp?

The park will have administrative sites held back for situations like this. In addition, day-of reservations will not be allowed on Recreation.gov, so any unreserved sites can be opened to day-of campers without reservations. Park rangers and camp hosts (seasonally) will make sure you get a campsite.

Why a partial reservation system and not making all sites reservable or remaining an all first-come, first-served system?

Advanced reservations of campsites will provide 24/7 ease of reservations, offer park visitors the convenience and flexibility to plan their trip ahead of time and to make changes to reservations when needed, and provide peace of mind knowing a campsite is waiting when they visit Bandelier. By leaving Loop A available to day-of campers, those "spur of the moment campers" or those with internet connectivity issues will still be able to enjoy camping in Bandelier. Transitioning to a partial reservation system will also help reduce the administrative burden placed on park staff allowing for that time to instead be spent on improving and expanding visitor services as well as enhancing visitor safety and resource protection in Bandelier.

How far in advance can reservations be made?

The first date campsites will be reservable for will be October 1, 2023. Reservations will open 2 months prior. Beginning January 1, 2024, campsites will be available for reservations up to 4 months in advance.