

FAQs

Q. Why change the rate structure of backcountry permits?

- A. Changing the structure makes the permit costs equitable according to the number of nights and size of group. It ensures smaller groups and/or shorter trips pay less than larger groups and/or longer trips.

Q. When was the last change in backcountry permit costs?

- A. The current structure has been in place for six years. The current rate is \$45 for advanced reservations and \$35 for walk-up permits, regardless of the group size or number of nights.

Q. When will this be implemented?

- A. This is proposed to be implemented in January 2024. An announcement of the implementation will be made at least 30 days prior to implementation.

Q. Can I still obtain backcountry permit in person?

- A. Yes, the current procedure for obtaining a walk-up or in-person permit will remain the same. Visitors may try to obtain a permit in person one day before the beginning of their backcountry camping trip.

Q. Do I still need to pick up my permit in person?

- A. Yes, an advance reservation holds your campsite, but it does not serve as the permit itself. Picking up the permit in person allows the opportunity to discuss current backcountry conditions, pick up a food storage container (if needed), go over safety considerations and regulations, and view the backcountry safety video if it was not already viewed online. Your permit will be printed on waterproof, tearproof paper with a wire to attach to your backpack and tent.

Q. What is the cancellation, change and no-show policy?

- A. Users will be able to cancel or change their reservations up to 5 days before the first day of their permit to receive a refund. The refund does not include the reservation fee. No-shows will not be eligible for a refund.

Q. Why is the reservation (permit) fee non-refundable?

- A. Overnight backcountry camping permits are highly sought after by the public. The flat

fee is non-refundable to encourage those who book in advance to have firm plans. However, we know plans change, so those reservation holders that need to cancel can do so at least 5 days in advance to receive a refund of the per person, per night fee. This allows more users to make advanced reservations and plan their trip.

Q. Will the per person/per night fee apply to the Alaska Basin and Fox Creek areas on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Jedediah Smith Wilderness?

- A. No. US Forest Service (USFS) fee regulations state that no fee will be charged for any nights spent on USFS lands with a Grand Teton National Park itinerary. Backcountry users visiting ONLY these areas, without any nights spent within Grand Teton National Park, are not required to obtain a backcountry permit from either agency.