



Memo To File

A. Project Information

Park Name: Zion National Park

PEPC Project Number: 88446

Project Title: Lava Point Campground Amenity Fees

Project Location: Lava Point Campground

County, State: Washington, Utah

Project Leader: Susan McPartland

B. Description of the Current Action (Project Description)

The National Park Service (NPS) Lava Point Campground at Zion National Park (ZION) is typically open May through September, as weather allows. Situated at 7890 feet above sea level, it is off the Kolob Terrace Road, 25 miles (45 minutes) north of the town of Virgin. It takes approximately one hour and 20 minutes to drive to the campground from the South Entrance of Zion Canyon. Currently it consists of six (6) primitive campsites available on a first come, first serve basis. Currently, there is no fee to use the campground or staff to administer campsites. The park has not kept records on the use of this campground, and management has long been based on the honor system. Amenities at the Lava Point Campground include fire rings, picnic tables, vault toilets, and trash cans. No water is available.

Following growth in visitation to this area of the park and improvements to the campsites, ZION is putting the Lava Point Campground under a reservation system through [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) beginning in the 2022 season. This would align the Lava Point Campground with the management of all other frontcountry campgrounds, specifically South and Watchman, as well as provide certainty in securing a campsite prior to arriving in a remote area. The new twenty dollar (\$20) per night per campsite fee would collect up to one hundred and twenty dollars (\$120) per night for the Lava Point Campground to address costs associated with servicing this remote location including trash removal, vault toilet servicing, general site maintenance, and administrative processing. This funding would also allow campground volunteers to be stationed at the campground for the summer. Updates to [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) are expected to be online by May 1, 2022.

2021 August: Civic Engagement on Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC)

- **Public Outreach:** Press Release: Zion National Park Accepting Comments on Proposed Lava Point Campground and Day-use Permit Lottery Amenity Fees, August 13, 2021 ([NPS 2021a](#))
- **Comment Period Open:** August 13, 2021- September 12, 2021

C. Civic Engagement Summary & Response

Public Comment Summary

Seven hundred and fifty (750) comments related to Lava Point were received during the civic engagement period for the proposed amenity fees at the Lava Point Campground. Overall comments conveyed support for fee increases and application of the reservation system to [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Of the total comments received on this proposal, five hundred and twenty-six (526) comments voiced approval of the proposed plan and twenty-nine (29) were directly opposed. Comments on the fee ranged from believing the dollar amount was fair (thirty (30) comments), to believing the fee was too high (sixty-seven (67) comments) or suggesting the fee should be higher (six (6) comments). Nine (9) comments recommended the campground remain first come first serve and three (3) comments expressly supported reservation systems. The primary price concerns expressed included

the potential exclusion of underprivileged communities from a NPS camping experience. Commenters were concerned that visitors who make a reservation will not know how remote the campground is before they arrive. Seventeen (17) commenters made various recommendations to expansion in the size of the campground. Commenters requested to be provided multiple time horizons for making reservations through [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) and suggested a hybrid system to fluctuate between first come first serve and seasons where reservations would be required.

ZION Response to Public Comment

Market Research: Rates were examined at five (5) campgrounds in close proximity to Lava Point Campground, including those listed below. At the time of the comparison prices ranged from five dollars (\$5) to fifty dollars (\$50) and averaged twenty-six dollars (\$26). Two (2) of the three (3) federally managed campgrounds are reservable through [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Adding Lava Point Campground to [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) brings it into alignment with the other two (2) campgrounds at ZION, [South Campground](#) and [Watchman Campground](#).

- 1) [Kolob Reservoir](#)
- 2) [Zion Wright Family Ranch](#)
- 3) [Cedar Canyon Campground](#)
- 4) [Rocky Peak Campground](#)
- 5) [Navajo Lake Campground](#)

Exclusion of Underprivileged Communities: The market analysis completed by the park shows that the Lava Point Campground is less than average local cost. In addition, free dispersed camping is available on [Bureau of Land Management](#) (BLM) Lands outside of ZION within eighteen (18) miles of the park boundary.

Information Sharing: Before users can make a reservation on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov), the main page for Lava Point Campground informs visitors about the remoteness and lack of facilities available at the campground. Additionally, the [NPS.gov](https://www.nps.gov) ZION website gives information about the facilities and primitive nature of the campground ([NPS 2021b](#), [Recreation.gov](#) 2021).

Infrastructure Expansion: Currently, there are no plans to expand the size or facilities at the Lava Point Campground.

Consistency: The Lava Point Campground would be managed similar to South Campground with a two-week rolling reservation window. Because of the high elevations and remoteness at Lava Point, the campground would be closed in the winter and not available for first come first serve any time of year.

D. Recommended by Park Section 106 Coordinator

NHPA Specialist: _____

Courtney Mackay

F. Conclusion

I certify that the existing NPS NEPA document has been reviewed and there are no substantive differences between the current proposal and its associated environmental impacts and the proposal and impacts as described in the existing NEPA document and associated decision document.

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Superintendent: _____

Jeffrey Bradybaugh

G. References

National Park Service (NPS). 2021a. Press Release: "Zion National Park Accepting Comments on Proposed Lava Point Campground and Day-use Permit Lottery Amenity Fees" (August 13, 2021). *Website*.

<https://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/news/zion-national-park-accepting-comments-on-proposed-lava-point-campground-and-day-use-permit-lottery-amenity-fees.htm>. Accessed 12/1/2021.

NPS. 2021b. Zion National Park - Lava Point Campground. *Website*. Updated November 8, 2021.

<https://www.nps.gov/zion/planyourvisit/lava-point-campground.htm>. Accessed 12/15/2021.

Recreation.gov. 2021. Lava Point Campground. *Website*. <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/poi/10138237>. Accessed 12/15/2021.