



December 22, 2011

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR PAMPLIN GROVE RESERVATIONS IN 2013

Humboldt County Parks expects to change the process for administering reservations at the Pamplin Grove group campground in Van Duzen County Park, starting with the 2013 season. No changes are being made for the 2012 season.

For the 2012 season, like previous years, Public Works staff will begin taking reservations early in the morning of the first business day of January, based on the order of names on a list posted at the Public Works office.

The customary practice has been for people to reserve their position on the list by signing in and then maintaining a physical presence at the Public Works office. Due to the popularity of certain summer weekends, some people typically begin reserving a place in the reservation line several days in advance by staying overnight in the parking lot in tents and vehicles. This process rewards people who are willing to dedicate substantial amounts of time to get their preferred dates. It also allows people waiting in line to discuss their preferred dates and in some cases negotiate adjustments. However, waiting in line for one or more nights can be challenging, especially with winter weather, and the lines create an inconvenience for Public Works employees. In addition, the process relies on people self-regulating themselves based on the honor system and communicating the customary practice to newcomers. Conflicts have arisen in the past due to disagreements or misunderstandings over the customary practice.

We recognize the appreciation for Pamplin Grove and the camping experience it provides for the public, and want to provide a reservation process that is fair and reasonable. Your input is requested for consideration of changes to the reservation process, starting in 2013. Some initial ideas include the following:

1. A lottery-style system in which people arrive at the Public Works office at a specified date and time (likely on the first business day in January), and your name goes into a hat and is drawn at random. Reservations are made based on the order of names drawn. People who arrive in person have the opportunity to make their reservation first prior to taking reservations via phone.
2. A dedicated phone line where reservations are handled on a first-come, serve-basis the first business day in January for the upcoming year. No reservations accepted in person.
3. Reservations are taken via phone exactly one year in advance of the reservation date. No reservations accepted in person.
4. An online reservation system at this point is not feasible due to cost and IT staff limitations.
5. Do nothing and keep the current system.

We welcome your comments and suggestions and other ideas on our reservation system. Pat Boyle, resident park caretaker for Van Duzen County Park, will be at the Public Works office on Sunday, January 1, at 9:30 am to meet with people in the reservation line and have an informal discussion on the matter. Comments and suggestions can also be provided on the back of this hand-out, or mailed to Humboldt County Parks, 1106 Second Street, Eureka, CA, 95501.

A description of the revised reservation process will be posted at Pamplin Grove by May 1, 2012.

