



**Washington Administrative Code Change**

**WAC 352-32-030 & WAC 352-32-010**

# **Camping Stay Limits**

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# WAC 325-32-030 (7)

## Camping Stay Limits

### Current Camping Stay Limits:

#### April through September 30

The maximum stay length is set by each state park and can be between 10 and 14 nights consecutively. After that, you must vacate the park for 3 consecutive nights.

#### October 1 through March 31

The maximum length of stay is twenty nights. Campers may stay **twenty consecutive nights** in one park, after which the camping party must vacate the park for three consecutive nights, not to exceed **forty days in a sixty-day time period**.

### Proposed Camping Stay Limits:

The maximum length of stay shall be no more than **10 nights in one park within a thirty-day period**. Total nights stayed **not to exceed 90 days per calendar year** in all state parks.”



# WAC 325-32-010

## Definition of Residence (current)

- WAC 325-32-10 essentially defines “residence” as any stay longer than the stay limits established in WAC 325-32-030.

**“ ‘Residence’ shall mean the long-term habitation of facilities at a given state park for purposes whose primary character is not recreational. ‘Residence’ is characterized by one or both of the following patterns: (1) Camping at a given park shall be for more than thirty days within a forty-day time period April 1 through September 30; or forty days within a sixty-day time period October 1 through March 31. As provided in WAC 352-32-030(7), continuous occupancy of facilities by the same camping party shall be limited to ten consecutive nights April 1 through September 30. Provided that at the discretion of the park ranger the maximum stay may be extended to fourteen consecutive nights if the campground is not fully occupied. Campers may stay twenty consecutive nights October 1 through March 31 in one park, after which the camping unit must vacate the overnight park facilities for three consecutive nights.”**



# WAC 325-32-010

## Definition of Residence (proposed)

- WAC 325-32-10 essentially defines “residence” as any stay longer than the stay limits established in WAC 325-32-030.

**“ ‘Residence’ shall mean the long-term habitation of facilities at a given state park for purposes whose primary character is not recreational. ‘Residence’ is characterized by one or both of the following patterns: (1) Camping at a given park shall be no more than ten nights in one park within a thirty-day period. Total nights stayed not to exceed 90 days per calendar year in all state parks.”**



# Proposed Camping Stay Limits WAC Update

## Intended Outcomes:

- Make camping stay limits clear and consistent for both our visitors and our staff.
- Better support stewardship of camping resources.
- Provide more equitable access to camping opportunities.
- Emphasize recreational (versus residential) use of campsites.
- Enhance visitor experience.

\*The proposed updates align with the Commission's strategic goal to effectively manage resources needed to create and sustain an exceptional park system.





# How did we decide on these limits?

## **Our Goal:**

*Find limits that support the intended outcomes while minimizing negative impacts to our camping visitors.*

- Used historical camping data to identify usage trends.
- Worked with onsite park staff and reservations staff to develop and “ground truth” our recommendations.
- Solicited public comment through our website.

(Received over 300 comments, with the majority being favorable or neutral to the change.)

# Why 10 nights in one park in a 30-day period?

- *Allows for back-to-back stays in multiple parks within a month.*
- *Encourages campers to distribute usage throughout the system.*
- *Provides minimal impact to current campers and pass holders.*
- *Supported by historical camping trends and data-*
  - *Of more than 321,000 reservations in 2023, only 676 stayed longer than 10 nights*
  - ***Less than 1% of reservations would be affected by this change***





# Why 90 nights in all parks, per calendar year?

- *Allows for three full months of camping throughout the year.*
- *May improve probability of campers finding sites in busy campgrounds that are historically hard to book.*
- *Provides minimal impact to current users and pass holders.*
- *Does not result in significant revenue loss from full-fare campers.*  
***In 2023 only 10 full-fare campers stayed more than 90 nights.***
- *Provides minimal impact to discount pass holders.*  
***Of almost 10,000 discount pass holders that camped in 2023, fewer than 100 stayed more than 90 nights.***



# Process and Timeline

Filing of CR-102 May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

A Press Release was sent out with a link to our website to solicit [public comment](#). Written public comments collected from June 1<sup>st</sup> – July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The proposed changes are presented to the Commission on July 18, 2024. If approved, the new stay limits will go into effect Aug. 18, 2024.

## Considerations made for current reservations

Parks will honor reservations for stays that extend beyond 10 nights, or existing reservations over the new 90-night maximum before Aug. 18.

After Aug. 18, visitors will not be permitted to make a reservation for more than 10 nights or to make a new reservation that pushes them beyond the 90-night limit.



# Staff Recommendations

- Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed amendments to WAC 352-32-030, as included in Appendix 1.
- Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed amendments to WAC 352-32-010, as included in Appendix 2.



# AAG Edit to Amendment after Original Filing

## The proposed change states:

The maximum length of stay shall be no more than 10 nights in one park within a thirty-day period. Total nights stayed not to exceed 90 days per calendar year in all state parks.”

## AAG recommended edits to proposal:

The maximum length of stay shall be no more than 10 nights in one park within a thirty-day period . Total nights stayed **by the same camping party** must not exceed 90 nights per calendar year in all state parks.

**Deleted:** “(a) Length of stay limits shall be established by the director or designee.”



# Requested Action

*It is requested that the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:*

1. Declare this meeting to be a public hearing for amending WAC 352-32-030 and WAC 352-32-10.
2. Consider the data, views, and arguments submitted by any person on the proposed rules as published in the Washington State Register and as further modified herein.
3. Formally amend WAC 352-32-030 and WAC 352-32-010, with AAG post-filing edits
4. Authorize the Director to file the regulations and to comply with all necessary procedural requirements.





# Questions?