

## RECREATION ONE STOP (R1S) EXPANDS OFFERINGS IN 2021

1) “Scan and Pay” is a QR code payment method for first-come-first-serve (non-reservable) camping, applicable to Class B and lower campgrounds with no reservable facilities. This program is intended to replace/offset the need for honor vaults or rover collections. The customer will enter the park, pick out a site, and scan a QR code which will take them to the Recreation.gov app for payment. Good cell coverage is necessary, for now, but BAH is actively working on technologies for remote areas. This is just a financial transaction, not a reservation, but all the data will be available for ranger confirmation and reporting, just like we’re used to with reservable parks. We’re piloting this at Kaw, Ouachita, Fall River, Barren River, Conchas, and Sutton Lakes. Kaw and Ouachita will go live during the fall/winter, and the others are waiting until the parks re-open after their seasonal shutdown.

2) Activity Passes for Day Use. Pilots for Activity Passes went live October 1 at 27 parks on 7 lakes in SAM and SWF. This program will allow a customer to purchase a day use pass (boat ramp, swim beach, or area) or USACE annual pass in advance online, or through a QR code scanned at the park. The caveat with this program is there is no quota established, meaning customers could potentially purchase 1000 passes for a park that only accommodates 100. Pilot sites are aware of this limitation, and we expect some lessons learned as we go through the process. Receipts for annual passes purchased online will have to be exchanged for a physical pass within a certain timeframe, just like they are with the fee machines. Good cell coverage is recommended, but not required because passes may be purchased in advance. Rangers can look up pass information on their phones or use a decoding “checksum” to determine if a pass is valid. This is a completely new way of doing business, and I expect a lot of education for both customers and lake staff. These pilots will be an invaluable source of information as USACE progresses through this program. Many lakes have installed fee machines for day use, which is a similar process. Activity Passes can be used in conjunction with fee machines and can offer customers a way to purchase passes in advance.

3) Hydro/Dam Tour Tickets: This program will allow tour facilities to use Recreation.gov to manage their tour visitation. Tours are currently paused due to COVID-19, but when they resume, we will begin onboarding these into Recreation.gov.

4) Hunting Permits: This program will allow projects to use Recreation.gov to manage their hunting permit application and award processes. Building permits in Recreation.gov is complicated, and a small number of projects will begin the onboarding process soon, for go-live in the 2021 hunting season.

These initiatives, coupled a focus on improving customer experiences on Recreation.gov, will add efficiencies and visibility to USACE’s recreation program. USACE is a leader in federal outdoor recreation, and R1S is ready to help us achieve our goals.

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