

**RULE IMPACT STATEMENT**  
**TITLE 725. OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**CHAPTER 30. DIVISION OF STATE PARKS**

*This Rule Impact Statement has been prepared pursuant to 75 O.S. § 303(D).*

**1. STATEMENT OF NEED AND LEGAL BASIS FOR RULE:**

In accordance with 74 O.S. §§ 2212 and 2215, OTRD has the exclusive duty to operate Oklahoma's state parks for the benefit of the people and ensure that all members of the public can access and enjoy Oklahoma's state parks. The proposed rule creates a cooling off period to keep visitors from making consecutive fourteen (14) day camping reservations, which will allow more members of the public to enjoy camping in the state parks.

**2. CLASSIFICATION OF RULE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR CLASSIFICATION:**

The proposed rule is classified as a nonmajor rule because the total cost of the implementation and compliance reasonably expected to be incurred by the agency or passed on to individuals, businesses, or other state or governmental units does not exceed \$1,000,000 over the initial five-year period following promulgation of the proposed rule.

Implementation of the rule by the Department will require a simple change in the reservation platform to change the frequency a repeat reservation is able to be made. The Vendor supporting the Department's reservation platform has deployed similar restrictions within other reservation systems they support/manage. Therefore, no coding or development hours are expected for the vendor to support the Department's reservation platform to make the necessary changes to comport with the rule. Because the rule amends the trigger of when the Department enforces a currently existing rule, there is no additional cost for the agency to implement the rule. To implement the enforcement of the rule the agency will send communication to agency personnel of the updates.

The Department is unaware of any cost businesses, state or local government units, or individuals will be required to take on to comply with this rule. Because this rule restricts conduct rather than mandates individuals or business to do something, there is no cost required to comply.

Because no coding or development hours are expected to implement the rule; enforcement costs of the Department is not expected to increase; and no costs will be incurred by the agency that will be passed on to businesses, state or local government units, or individuals nor will there be a cost to comply with the rule by individuals, businesses, or other state or governmental units, the implementation and compliance cost is \$0.

**3. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED RULE:**

The proposed rule restricts park visitors from camping for more than fourteen (14) days within a twenty-one (21) day period without a permit. The rule creates a cooling off period to address visitors making consecutive fourteen (14) day camping reservations which allows the agency to make campsites available to more park visitors and citizens of Oklahoma who wish to enjoy Oklahoma's state parks.

**4. CLASSES OF PERSONS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY RULE AND COST IMPACT:**

The proposed rule is likely to affect people that wish to camp in a singular campground at an Oklahoma state park for more than fourteen (14) days in a twenty-one (21) day period. As of the date of publication of this Rule Impact Statement, OTRD has not received any cost impacts from private or public entities.

**5. CLASS OF PERSONS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE RULE:**

The proposed rule will benefit people who visit Oklahoma's state parks and wish to camp by increasing their likelihood of being able to reserve a campsite by prohibiting a campsite from being booked continuously and occupied by the same camper(s).

**6. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RULE:**

The proposed rule will have a neutral economic impact on the agency. Regardless of whether a campsite is reserved by new individuals or repeat guests, the revenue to the agency is unchanged. Further, because the agency already prohibits camping for periods longer than fourteen days and has mechanisms in place to permit longer stays in specific instances and the rule only changes the Department's management of camping reservations and when it institutes enforcement, no additional compliance personnel or costly software implementation is necessary. Therefore, a negative impact is not expected.

The proposed rule is expected to have positive economic impacts on local business, individuals, government units, and the state economy as a whole because it is expected to increase visitor spending. State parks are economic drivers that bring in visitors to spend dollars in local communities. By ensuring campsites turnover frequently, the rule increases more unique visitors to the park and local communities that will increase spending at restaurants, shops, and gas stations. Therefore, the total aggregate spending in surrounding communities is likely to increase as more people visit the community.

**7. ECONOMIC IMPACT METHODOLOGY:**

In determining the economic impact of the rule on the Department, the Department assumed that the campsites will not experience a decrease in reserved nights. During the high season, the Department sees an increased demand for camping reservations. In the

event campsite demand decreases, such as in the off-season, there is a permit process that allows campsites to be reserved for periods exceeding fourteen days.

In determining the economic impact of the rule on local business, individuals, government units, and the state economy as a whole, the Department used historic data received from Datafy and OmniTrack that the average overnight visitor in zip codes containing state parks spends \$90-\$180 per day. The Department made the assumption that visitors camping for longer periods of time are more likely to spend below this average because those visitors are more likely to bring supplies and other necessities with them or do not stay in the park for all nights of the camping reservation (visitors may reserve a campsite for 14 days covering two weekends and only stay at the park on the weekends).

**8. COSTS AND BENEFITS OF RULE TO AGENCY:**

The proposed rule will allow the agency to more capably meet its statutory duty of making Oklahoma's state parks available to all members of the public by increasing the number of people able to make camping reservations. Implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule is not expected to add additional costs to the agency. Agency revenues are not expected to change under the proposed rule. The campsites are still reservable at the same rates; however, the ability to reserve a campsite is being made available to more visitors.

**9. IMPACT OF RULE ON POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS:**

Implementation of the proposed rule will not have a negative economic impact on political subdivisions. The proposed rule, which will allow more people to reserve camping space, is likely to have a positive impact on political subdivisions as it will increase their visitation and provide more advantageous economic opportunities for businesses within the political subdivision. See RIS Section 6 and 7.

The Department has sought to limit negative impacts on long-term camping through the permitting process by affording visitors desiring to reserve a campsite for more than 14 consecutive days to make such requests to the Department.

**10. IMPACT OF RULE ON SMALL BUSINESSES:**

Implementation of the proposed rule will not have an adverse impact on small businesses as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act.

**11. MEASURES TO MINIMIZE COST IMPACT OF THE RULE:**

No measure to minimize the impact of the proposed rule on business and economic development in the State was necessary because the proposed rule is not anticipated to have a negative effect on business or economic development.

**12. EFFECT OF RULE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENT:**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to have an effect on public health, safety, or the environment.

**13. DETRIMENTAL EFFECT OF RULE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENT:**

If the proposed rule is not implemented, no detrimental effect on public health, safety, or the environment is anticipated.

**14. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES TO ADOPTING RULE:**

The alternative to adopting the proposed rule, leaving the current rule as-is, continues to allow the possibility for a single person to reserve a campsite for a near indefinite period. As the rule currently stands, so long as a camper spaces their fourteen (14) day reservations one (1) day apart, they may occupy a space for an entire season, year, etc. This goes against OTRD's statutory mandate to allow as many members of the public as possible to enjoy camping in the state parks.

**15. TIME SPENT AND RESOURCES USED DEVELOPING RULE:**

OTRD estimates that less than three (3) hours were spent developing the proposed rule after the need for the rule was realized.

**16. SUMMARY AND COMPARISON OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS ADDRESSING SAME MATTER:**

OTRD operates state parks on land owned by the State of Oklahoma, land owned by and leased from Oklahoma political subdivisions, and land owned by and leased from the federal government, specifically the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prohibit camping on federal lands for periods longer than fourteen (14) days during any thirty (30) day period. *See* 43 C.F.R. § 423.33 (2023) and 36 C.F.R. § 327.7 (2000).

The proposed rule adds a similar cooling off period to those required in parks on federally owned land for camping reservations in parks on non-federal land. The proposed rule, however, has a shorter cooling-off period for parks that are not on federal land.

**17. PREPARATION AND MODIFICATION DATES OF RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:**

This rule impact statement was prepared on December 22, 2025 and updated on April 3, 2026.