



Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bowl Canyon Recreation Area Re-Open

WINDOW ROCK, AZ. – The Bowl Canyon Recreation Area is open for day use at Asaayi Lake.

Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department Manager Martin L. Begaye, stated, “After receiving numerous inquiries about the Bowl Canyon Recreation Area, we want to assure the public that Asaayi Lake is not closed, but open for camping and picnicking.”

Begaye said there is no entrance fee to visit Bowl Canyon Recreation Area; however, visitors must purchase a day-use camping permit for camping or picnicking from the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department. Camping permits can be obtained at Gorman Hall on the Navajo Nation Fairgrounds in Window Rock, Arizona. Visitors are encouraged to “take in, take out” meaning all trash should be hauled out since trash collection is limited.

Bowl Canyon Recreation Area consists of Asaayi Lake, which was never closed and Camp Asaayi, which is closed due to ongoing renovation. Visitors are invited to go camping and picnicking at Camp Asaayi, however, the lake has not been restocked with fish yet.

There have been concerns by the public that Asaayi Lake became contaminated due to a 2014 fire in the watershed around Bowl Canyon Recreation area; however, Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife officials said it is a misconception.



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Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife Manager Jeffrey Cole said that the Navajo Department of Fish and Wildlife conducted an assessment and found that Asaayi Lake is not contaminated.

Cole explained, “Most of the fish had died due to ash flowing into the lake. The water is still too warm for us to stock with trout. Some fish did survive and fisherman are catching a few fish at this time. We will continue to monitor the water quality and when that is stabilized, we will then stock the lake.”

Camping permits are \$15 per site per night up to seven people. For group sites, it is \$25 for half a day and \$50 for a full day. Day use permits for picnicking are also \$15.00 per site. For more information about fishing permits, contact the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife at (928) 871-6450, 6451 or 6452.

Visitors can enter Bowl Canyon Recreation on the north side from New Mexico State Highway 134 near Crystal, New Mexico. For more information about camping permits, contact the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department at (928) 871-6647 or via their website at www.navajonationparks.org