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Comments: The main objection that I have to the new plan is the change from dispersed backcountry camping to designated campsites. One of the greatest things about the Red River Gorge is that it is open and free. Changing to a designated campsite system will force backcountry campers to have less of a private camping experience. Isn't one of the reasons it's so enjoyable to be in the great outdoors to get away from the noise of people?

Instead of designated campsites only, what about offering a limited number of dispersed backcountry camping passes per day? When campers pick up their passes, they could be required to watch a video / review information on the Leave No Trace principles. This would operate effectively just the same as when you rent a canoe/kayak/ATV. This could address the capacity issue and enforce the camping boundaries away from trails, cliff lines, riverbeds, etc.

As far as the shuttle system, I understand that while there are currently private shuttles that operate in the RRG I don't think that they have regular timed routes. If you are removing parking spaces and trying to force users into utilizing the shuttle services, some sort of regular timed schedule needs to be implemented. A lot of the trailheads in Clifty Wilderness are in areas without cell phone service, leaving hikers no way to call to arrange their shuttle ride if they didn't end at a pre-planned time.

Lastly, I do have major concerns over the ability to enforce the new restrictions and for the search & rescue teams. Is there federal funding available to help these two departments?