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Comments: I've had the pleasure of hiking to Blue Lakes onto occasions. Both hikes were in late August, the weekend before Labor Day. Neither time that I hiked to blue Lakes did I feel things were overcrowded. With our second trip we camped at the lower lake. There were numerous other parties camped at the lake, and there was obviously some degradation of the forest floor, due to so many dispersed campsites. I think that a compromise solution, with a designated number of hardened campsites, that require reservations, but balanced by no restrictions on deus could be a reasonable compromise.

If you do elect to require reservations for camping at Blue Lakes, I would strongly urge consideration of a "rolling reservation" where some of the campsites could be reserved months in advance, and other campsites would only become available one or two weeks prior to the reservation. It is critical to balance reservations both for parties that desire a trip planned in advance and more spontaneous access to these beautiful locations. If you look at access to other Hughes Alpine locations in Colorado. I would strongly urge you to look critically at other locations in Colorado to see what has worked, and what has failed in attempt to balance access, and protect our precious resources.