

# Holidays in park gain in popularity

Reservations at Table Rock could fill up even earlier this year

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It might seem a bit early to start thinking about the 2011 holiday season, but if you're dreaming of a Table Rock Christmas or New Year's Eve, now's the time to start making plans. Reservations at the state park are taken 11 months in advance, and the cabins get snatched up quickly.

Kurtis Stukes, assistant manager at Table Rock State Park, said most cabins at Table Rock have been filled over the holidays — Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's weekend — with people making memories at the park in northern Pickens County.

"It's a very homey feel," Stukes said. "Especially this year, it snowed on Christmas Day, and you're in cabins at Table Rock, and you have the mountain right behind you. It was just breathtaking as far as the sights."

He said the state parks' reservation system allows

people to book cabins online 11 months in advance.

But Stukes said holiday seasons in years past have booked up earlier than this year did.

He said it's hard to say why, but the sagging economy could be a factor in people waiting later in the year to book.

"Through talking with people, it seems as if they want to utilize more of the resources that they have within the state instead of trying to go out and abroad," he said. "They keep revenue generated here in South Carolina."

Stukes said the park attracts visitors from all over, including from Canada and sometimes families from overseas who are touring the United States. But it's also being used by more people from local communities.

"They're starting to realize that this is something that's awesome that we actually have that's right out our back door," he said.

Cabins prices range from around \$63 to \$103 a night for a four-person cabin; around \$73 to \$128 a night for a six-person cabin; and around \$138 to \$168 a night for a nine-person cabin, Stukes said.