November 24th, 2019

To whom it may concern,

I’m an avid day hiker who has hiked extensively in the Sisters, Jefferson, and Washington Wildernesses areas over the past 23 years.

**Fee Proposal**: I strongly urge you to consider reducing the number of permits that an individual can obtain for a given date to be limited to six, not twelve permits (for a group). There are some people who abuse the online process and others who are legitimate group leaders, who obtain the maximum number of permits for a given date even though a large number of the individuals in their group do not show up to hike on that date, so individual hikers lose out. I can personally attest that this has occurred a number of times when I was at a trailhead, and casually speaking to a group leader.

**Ratio of Reservable to Spontaneous**: As far as proportions for reservable to spontaneous (**within a 2-3 days before the hiking date**) permits, I strongly suggest for day hikers the proportions be closer to 30% (reservable) to 70% (spontaneous). Since I don’t backpack, I will pass on that issue.

Also, please don’t allow a person to be able to obtain permits for multiple trailheads for the same date, etc.

**Volunteer Pass**: I like the idea of a “volunteer pass”- I feel like maybe 5 full days of volunteering would be sufficient, unless I am way off on this. Since I work, more than this may be difficult to manage. Would not need to be consecutive days. Not sure what volunteering would entail, but as was mentioned, cleaning up, trailhead hosting, etc.

**Technology Issues**: Since permits have to be printed after being purchased online- that brings up other issues/concerns. What if my printer decides not to work? Can we write a permit # on a piece of paper to carry on me & put in my car?

**Cancellation Policy**: As far as a cancellation policy- I would like to see some form of transparency- i.e. no shows with group permits- maybe the leader can cancel a permit(s) within 2-3 days if they know someone can’t make the trip. Or set up a voice mail at the ranger station for after hours that I can call to let a ranger know that I will cancel my permit, & the next morning a ranger maybe can go into the site & make another permit available, etc.

**Fee Proposal**: I can see the need to charge a fee for overnight backcountry camping. However, I’m strongly opposed to charging a fee for day hiking. This is simply wrong!

Thank you for having the Town Hall meeting the other evening, and allowing the public to offer our suggestions.

Sincerely,

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