

25 Nov 2019

Comment on Special Recreation Permit Fee

I'm generally OK with the fees as proposed with the following comments.

I feel it's very appropriate for the people that use the area to fund enforcement of the rules and rehabilitation of their impacts.

Please set the fees at a rate that is adequate to fund rules enforcement and rehabilitation of human and domestic animal impacts. If you need more funding then charge more.

Since a significant amount of impacts are a result of campfires and domestic animals then charge the same fee for dogs (per dog) and stock animals as humans are charged. In areas where campfires are permitted charge a significant fee (\$25+) per night for a campfire. Fine heavily for non-compliance.

Start issuing citations for rule violations on Day 1 (with heavy enforcement). Establish early that the rules will be enforced and that there are consequences for violations (fine and ineligible for future permits for a given time period). Otherwise the only people affected by the new rules will be those persons that abide by them.

At the meeting in Bend it was stated that some permits may be available through the library. I feel that this would have too much opportunity for manipulation and abuse.

At the Bend meeting it was also stated that there may be opportunities for permits for people that volunteer a given number of hours. As a person that volunteers several hundred hours a year (USFS & NPS) I don't feel this is appropriate for individuals. You'll get too many people volunteering just for a permit but not actually accomplishing any real work. Instead, give permits to organizations that conduct work parties through Volunteer Service Agreements so that they can reward the volunteers with outings in the restricted areas.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment and good luck.

John Fertig
Bend, Oregon
