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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Permits

To whom it may concern,

As a frequent day use hiker, with the prior permit system, I never had much difficulty getting a day use permit into the limited use areas prior to this year, but this year, 2019, I had difficulty with web site as well as finding available dates to get a permit as it was clearly booked, weekends were impossible, and trying to find dates, with my work schedule, and weather conditions, again impossible. I am a local with over 100 year family history in central Oregon. I was a proponent of limited access but when I couldn't access the areas I love to visit each year because of block booking on weekends, most weekdays, I have second thoughts about management. Clearly forests need more of you on these trails, unless that steps up, people will skip the permit and off trail it just to skirt the rules. I also buy a yearly park pass, then pay roughly \$6-9 dollars per hike and 4-5 days weekly, I have concerns that only those computer savvy and with money will be able to use our forests and hotels, resorts will buy up permits to sell or offer to their guests, locals will be out of luck, as we found out this year.

I can't per buy every place, every hike in April, snow, weather, etc dictate how and when trails even are open and safe. One year we went on a June day, no way to anticipate 100 degree heat by noon and we almost killed both our dogs on a now permit only hike.... so I may buy these permits but we will only go weather permitting and that will possibly prevent someone that could or be willing to go. Please make sure there is way to cancel so others can get a last minute permit....

Enough said. I wish locals could get a resident pass, reduced fee or one time cost, I also want to meet rangers at every trail head, that lack of is why abuse is happening. I was a strong proponent of limited access, until I no longer could access these trails and that is sad when we live, work and love this area.

Susan Long

Sent from my iPad