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Comments: FW: Club Wilderness Permit

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Caring for the land and serving people

From: Lyndell Wilken [mailto:lyndellwilken@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2019 3:54 PM

To: Peterson, Matt B -FS <matt.peterson@usda.gov>

Subject: Club Wilderness Permit

What is the chance that there could be 1 club permit per day offered separate from the individual permits. A set fee could be established for the club permit. An example: The Obsidian's have a maximum of 12 people per hike. Sometimes we fill a hike but often we have fewer than 12 because not enough people sign up or the trip leader designates smaller number of participants. So, if a club permit could be an average of 8 people and a fee of \$32 was charged for a club permit that would mean the club would pay the \$32 when they get the permit on line and not have to worry about the number of people signing up.

The reason for this suggestion is that our trip leaders post a hike weeks if not months in advance so we can build a hiking calendar to let the public know what is coming. The hike sign up page on the web is not posted until 2-3 weeks prior to the actual hike date. So, a leader does not know who is going before they would apply for a permit. Having a club permit would allow the club to reimburse the leader immediately so they would not have to take money out of their pockets while waiting for the hike to take place where the money is collected from the participants. The average of paying for 8 hikers on a club permit would mean that we would not be overpaying if

we paid for 12 hikers and only 6 actually participate. We believe with an average of 8 neither the FS or the Obsidians would be out of money.

Another scenario is when we do a key exchange. Example would be hiking from Santiam Pass to McKenzie Pass and we have 2 cars of people each starting at a different pass and handing off a key as the groups pass. Would the one permit be recognized since the hike starts at two trailheads.

Just trying to get your input on this before we send it in.

Lyndell Wilken
Obsidian President