Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/13/2019 9:19:19 PM
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Business Impact Study Needed ASAP due to proposed quotas on the area. Please get involved and let the USDA and USFS know what you think!!

Sisters Chamber and its member businesses,

We attended a meeting last night at the United States Forest Service office in Bend. We were shocked that there were no members of the local business community and that the local businesses we visited while in town had no idea that the USFS is going to severely limit the number of people allowed to recreate on public lands in the area.

We asked the forest service how many people they would be eliminating from the area in an email. They did not respond.

When I asked if a business impact study had been done at the meeting, they said, "Well we reached out to the local community." It is clear they have not, as the local business community was not represented at the meeting.

We ask that you demand a business impact study. The USFS would not allow actual public comment at the meeting. They said they are only closing a small percentage of the wilderness. When I asked how many people they are keeping out, they could not answer.

They said that people would use other trails in the area. The only area that will stay open and unlimited that has any kind of tourism draw is in the Oak Ridge area.

I am doing fuzzy math, because USFS will not give us numbers. They are now limiting South Sister (which was previously unlimited and is in close proximity to Bend and Sisters) to 100 people per day. I was on South Sister 5 times this year. My guess is that they will be telling over 900 people PER DAY to go elsewhere.

My group of 12 this last weekend spent well over $300 per person for lodging, food, and gear.

We visited Jakes

We visited Gear Fix and bought AT ski gear. We visited Immersion Brewing

The mountains are what call us to your area and are exactly what they are closing.

Please look at the quotas on the picture below. This will severely impact the towns of Bend and Sisters. They are keeping people out of your wilderness and basically telling tourists that Bend and Sisters is closed. Please get involved!!

They are also limiting locals from being able to get in that workout after a long day at work. A quick spur of the moment trip to the hills will not exist in this new system.

The time is now. The public comment session is ending in a week.

Please respond to this email if you have any questions. I would be happy to provide you my phone number if you want reach out to discuss this further.

The next open house is 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 12, in Salem at Chemeketa Community College's Winema Building. The second is 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 21 in Eugene at the Hilyard Community Center.

***However it is important to note that they are NOT TAKING ANY PUBLIC COMMENT addressed to the group as a whole. They are making people workshop this, and I do not think any comments at the meeting are actually being passed to the people higher up the chain. No notes were taken by the rangers in the breakout session. It appears these meetings are a formality in the process. **

I suggest sending emails to WillametteRecFeeComments@usda.gov they have been copied on this email, so you could also just reply all.

This is going to take millions out of the economies of Bend and Sisters. Please demand a delay in this process. Please demand a legitimate business study and demand they delay until you have the data you need.

Thank you for your time,

Adam Coberley
Admin - Oregon Hikers and Climbers - We are 7000+ strong members

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