

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/12/2019 3:05:26 AM

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Comments: Opposed to proposed Fees

I read the article about the fee system that you want to put into play. I have known for a while reading hiking magazines that it would be the "ultra hiker" that would want this type of fee system to make it so they are by themselves on a mountain. I am ok with paying a fee to go hiking in Central Oregon but not ok limiting the amount of citizens that can use this area just so a few can have the mountain to themselves. In September we planned a trip to Central Oregon and decided to not get reservation everywhere, to just go and find a place. It was wonderful. But you are putting more and more restrictions on so the "get out and enjoy a week of Central Oregon" hiker has trouble doing this. I told someone today that we didn't do the South Sister in September because of rain in the lowlands and snow up there. You would make it so we would need a permit to go and then, what a disappointment, rained or snowed out. Mount St. Helens has permits and it is not an easy thing for us "fun hikers" to go. You are limiting the people who pay for upkeep etc. and allowing just the special elite to participate. Shame on you. It might be more cost effective to hire more rangers to catch the people who are damaging different areas. It also would set a precedent for all of Oregon to make it difficult for the average person and give the ultra hikers more solitude. You forget, the farther you go on a hike, the less people there are.

Thanks,

Mary Mullins

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