

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/24/2019 3:51:01 PM

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Organization:

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Comments:

I recently drove through the "Frog Camp" parking area at the Obsidian TH. The weather had become unseasonably cold with recent snow, and I looked online to see that 24 over night-permits were purchased for that day/night, and only one car was at the TH at 8pm. I know now it says on the website that if you decide not to use your permit, to submit it back to the pool so others can use it and this is a good example (albeit extreme) of people not doing so. But it happens during nice weather, too, i'm sure. I would assume people think that if they have to pay a service fee for every permit, why bother cancelling if that fee is not refunded as well? Also, if you reserve permits for several nights, do you have to pay a \$6 fee for each permit? That adds up!! How can people be encouraged to make those permits available to others if they decide not to use them? I don't mind paying a small permit fee but adding all the non-refundable "reservation fees" that cost more than the permits sucks.

How will the "day of" permits be released? I know many Ranger Stations are not open on weekends, are people going to be fighting on the internet at a certain time of day to snag one? I often hike and backpack very spontaneously in Jeff and Three Sisters for several reasons and not knowing how to get a permit at the last minute is causing anxiety. Especially for hikes that require better weather (ie, South Sister summit or backpacking). That kind of ties in to the issue above, and if you can get a refund for weather extremes or personal illness/injury/emergency that would keep you from using it.

I also think that horses/stock should have a slightly higher fee, or maybe a fee per animal (like \$1 or something) because they are causing more damage to trails and erosion to lake and creek beds than humans....

I am in support of the permit system, as a native Eugenician I have see such a dramatic increase in use and destruction up there. I hope it can be enforced. A lot of chatter on the internet is just to go without a permit and refuse to pay fines, if they do get caught :-(

One thing may not be pertinent but I have seen several photography websites out of Bend area advertising "destination" weddings, engagement photos, etc. I have seen them advertise with photos of groups off trail at several iconic locations (Sahalie falls, No Name Lake, Sparks Lake, Dee Wright, etc) and one advertising parking at Green Lakes TH to go in to Sparks lake for photos. That TH is already so crowded! Can this be restricted?

Thank you for allowing input.

Good luck!!

Jeanette Brandner