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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wilderness Permits

Willamette Rec Fee Comments,

I understand your goal to reduce numbers to popular places. The solution with fee permits is not going to prevent the issues you are having. I backpack several times a year and love the Jefferson Wilderness. My family enjoys our annual long weekend trip into the woods together. The permit process at Pamela Lake worked perfectly for us. We went once, realized it was such a hassle to get a permit from the ranger station before it closed on a Friday evening, not knowing if one would be available. We followed the rules like we always do, we stayed exactly where we said we would on the permit and never went there again, even though it was the best trail for our young kids and a beautiful hike that we would have loved to do again. If the goal is to reduce total numbers of people visiting and enjoying the wilderness, the solution you have provided is perfect. You are going to reduce the number of people who follow the rules due to not being able to get permits when they need them and they won't go, but the people who could care less about the rules will still enter when not permitted, still cut down trees at a camp, carve their initials in everything, leave feces and toilet paper everywhere. The solution provided does not solve the problem. Good luck and I do hope I'm wrong and it works out.

As far as the cost of the permit goes. The proposed fees seem reasonable to me. I think the minor fine of \$200 is also worth it to be able to backpack to the base of Mt Jefferson, camp at a nice lake that I want to go to on a spur of the moment hike when no permits are available. Unfortunately, I don't possess the character traits required to follow through with that plan. But I'm sure others will. Just like most rules, you will be punishing the rule followers while still allowing the others to slide. Good luck with the rest of the process and I look forward to a good trip next summer to test out the new system.

-JB Phillips