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Title:

Comments: Recreation fee comments

While I understand the need for limiting overuse in these wilderness areas, I object to several parts of the proposal. Specifically:

-the \$6 processing fee for overnight trips is excessive. The private operator of recreation.gov is charging too much for the "privilege" of making a reservation. The processing fee should be the same \$1 as day use permits -the \$5 per person per night overnight use fee is also excessive. It should be a flat fee per person for up to 5-7 days and then beyond that can be an additional charge. The nightly per person fee isn't even applied at many national parks, so why here?

-my biggest problem is around permits for reservations and walk up. If someone makes a reservation but then doesn't pick up their permit, is that spot then lost so then others can't use it that day/overnight? Many people make these reservations elsewhere and don't show up. Those spots should be put back in the pool for use if a permit isn't picked up. I think half of permits should be reservable and half saved for walk up.

-the number of permits available at the most popular trailheads seems too low. Most of the problems there are from people not adhering to leave no trace principles. So we should have rangers enforcing those rules (staying on trail, not littering, etc.) for people who break them, rather than penalize everyone including those who are good stewards of our wilderness.

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