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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Special Recreation Permit Fee

Hello,

I'm writing in regards to the proposed special recreation permit fee.

First and foremost, I understand with the desire to implement a permit system on the basis of protecting our treasured public lands. As an avid hiker and camper, I'm extremely acquainted with how busy our popular trails can be at peak times of the year.

However, I do not agree with the current proposed permit fee structure or the limited entry system. Regarding the fee system, I fear that with the proposed system will be cost prohibitive to many people.

Instead, perhaps an unlimited day pass similar to the NW Forest Pass or alternately, instead sticking to the current permit system that is used for trails such as Obsidian and Pamela Lake, which only requires paying for one group permit at a flat price per night. That way, families or groups do not have to spend so much to go on a multi-night backpacking trip.

My second grievance with the limited entry system. One of the best things about living in Oregon is the access to countless public lands and trail systems. However, life is difficult to plan months in advance. Having a limited entry system for so many of the higher-used trails takes out the spontaneity of recreating. Most of my favorite hikes have occurred as a last minute decision based on my own availability and a good weather window.

I find it disheartening that our state tourism board can do a ton of marketing to get tourists to visit our great state, much of which includes recreating outdoors, yet this limited entry system is being proposed to keep people, including locals, off many of our best trails and wilderness areas.

At the very least, if a limited entry reservation permit system does move forward, which again I disagree with, it is absolutely pertinent that a large amount of permits be available for day-of acquisition. This would remedy the problem of having too many people on our trails, but still allow for the spontaneity that many hikers such as myself enjoy. I believe at minimum 50% of available permits should be allowed for day-of or week-of reservation. This would allow for monitoring weather windows necessary for safe travel on higher elevation trails such as South Sister.

Additionally, there needs to be an easy and accessible way for permits to be resold should a permit holder decide to cancel and a limit that permits may only be resold for amount paid. This would prevent the possibility that some people could buy multiple permits and resell at a higher cost.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Miranda Daviduk
Corvallis, OR