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Organization:

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Comments: central oregon and surrounding requiring permits

Hi-

I have been a Bend resident for almost 10 years and when I first heard about the permitting fee that was coming I thought there are some trails that would benefit from this system. I do have mixed feelings because for a large family that is low income this may limit access to the outdoors in these areas which I do not support. There are a lot of low income families in central Oregon. When I heard how many trails and areas where access was going to be limited I knew I needed to voice my opinion. I have never lived or heard of an area so heavily permitted as you are proposing. I could understand permitting south sister backpacking or hiking south sister or green lakes, but I do not support most of the other trails that are being recommended. I support paying for backpacking in most areas as this is the larger impact. For day hikers if they are more restricted by number this will increase numbers on non-permitted trails which will increase the disturbance to wild life. To decrease disturbance on wildlife it is better to have the majority of hikers hiking one trail not many in the area. There will not be less people but what you are doing will disperse them and have a greater impact on wildlife and natural places. Coming from colorado where for some places you were required to carry a permit to backpack that cost a little bit and was limited to the number of designated camp sites in high traffic areas I am on board with. Limiting the number of day hikers in most places I can not support because once again it is less disturbing to wildlife to have most people on one trail instead of forcing people to go to other less busy trails. As a local who likes to run at todd lake and sodacreek/broken top/green lakes I want the option to wake up in the morning and decide to go for a run because it is nice out. It is also safer to run where there are more people and less impact on the area as a whole. 19 areas/trails is just too much for day use. Please reconsider some of the areas and pricing to increase ease of access to the local community and to low income families.

Rebecca Loveman