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Comments: Comments on permit requirements

Hi -

First of all thank you for the work you do on behalf of the public and the environment. I am an avid hiker and frequent volunteer with WTA/TKO and others to do trail maintenance and understand how much effort goes into keeping our trails safe and open.

I am ok with a permit system. Although I don't like the idea that it becomes like a rock concert going on sale and hard to get a permit. Just look at the Mt St Helens climbing permit as a good example. A lottery for key weekend dates seems more fair.

In addition I would like non-US citizens to pay more for access. When I travel to other countries I have to pay more. It makes sense because in those locations my tax dollars are not contributing to the upkeep. Torres Del Paine and Ankor Wat are two good examples.

Finally I think we should setup the permit systems similar to scuba certifications. One of the things we want to accomplish is safety for both the wilderness and the people who use it. Why would we not want to make sure people are educated and prepared especially on overnight or multi day trips. With using recreation.gov account profiles we should be able to record appropriate certifications. A requestor would get points for various certs and this would change their position in line or increase their likelihood of success in a lottery. Some items could be:

- wilderness first aid certified
- map and compass class
- leave no trace training
- avalanche training for winter times
- volunteer work supporting trails. Either trail maintenance or other office type work that is needed at the USFS or other governmental agencies.

I am guessing this would not be a popular approach but would ensure safety in and of the wilderness as well as incentivize more people to volunteer.

I think people who do trail maintenance work are great. They freely give up their time and care a lot about keeping trails healthy. They are more likely to follow LNT rules because they understand the impact first hand. I did 12 days of work in 2018. Which to me was a lot but to others I worked with was a drop in the hat. When it finally comes to a weekend day I want to hike or backpack why shouldn't I (And others) get some preferential treatment?

Thank you again for your time to read these comments and good luck.

Regards,
Arianne

Sent from Arianne's iPhone