

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2019 7:02:35 PM

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Comments: Special Recreation Permit Fee Response

I would like to submit my responses to the limited entry system for the Mt. Washington, Mt. Jefferson, and Three Sisters Wilderness Areas:

Positive Results

1. A revenue source to be invested in wilderness management activities such as trail improvements and visitor education.
2. Reduction of the detrimental environment impacts through restriction of use by humans, pets and stock animals.
3. Imposed restrictions for overnight camping to reflect availability of suitable camping sites.

Negative Results

1. Financial inequity used to discourage use of wilderness areas.
2. Cost prohibitive for families resulting in a loss of support to protect wilderness areas
3. Requirement for internet access and advance planning to use wilderness areas.
4. Elimination of local hiking groups from using recreational areas affected.

Suggestions for compromise to the current proposal

1. Require advance purchase permits from June 15 to September 15 (Snow at higher elevations in Spring and Fall can be cold, smoky with limited daylight hours)
2. Require advance purchase permits Friday, Saturday and Sunday
3. Require Domestic animals to be included in the fee structure as they are very detrimental to the environment off leash etc.

Thank you for taking the time to consider public input.

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