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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wilderness permit comments

I would like to see permit cost scaled (increased) with group size and overall group size limits reduced. I've run into groups of 12+ And it's almost always a party and doesn't align well with the intent of the wilderness act.

I hike responsibly with a dog on many occasions. Dogs likely have more impact on the wilderness act intent than people. This should be accounted for in the fee/availability. Dogs should have their own fee, not be allowed and or count as a member of the group.

I suggest fees/availability be structured to encourage the 'ideal' situation of 1-4 people with no more than two tents. I worry, as proposed, you are encouraging short solo trips which creates safety issues for the unprepared and is counter to recommendations to not go alone.

It has been my experience that most of the waste and damage follows holidays and other times when the 'casual' backpackers show up for short trips. One is more likely to carry unnecessary stuff and abandon it on short trips. Fees and availability should reflect this. I shouldn't be penalized monetarily or be as limited for a long trip relative to people looking to have a good time over the holiday. It should cost more for short trips on holidays and possibly weekends.

i appreciate staffing issues and cost but you should consider requiring a face to face pick up of all permits at the nearest headquarters rather than (or in addition to) online reservations. I think potential troublemakers will be discouraged and/or identifiable by staff prior to their trip; not to mention a chance to educate. this is the last thing I want to do, and possibly problematic with business hrs, but I think it's a wise idea.

I Strongly encourage advertising these changes in policy widely and often. We cant rely on the Statesman journal which is the only place I see this information being disseminated.

Finally I'm pretty sure I was the last overnight visitor to Jefferson park this yr. it was a last minute trip (It was sunny for two days followed by snow levels dropping to 4K ft) and intentional bc those days may be gone . Thank you for including the spontaneous permit option in the plan. I think the spontaneous trip represents the 'Oregon way' more than anything else and the last thing we need to loose in this process.

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