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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Recreation Permit Fee Comments

Hello Willamette National Forest Representative:

I would like to share my thoughts on the proposed restrictions and fees.

Backpacking is my absolute favorite thing in to do in Central Oregon. We started backpacking only 2 years ago because it was so freaking hard to find a camping spot.

The best part about backpacking is being able to go where you want and stay as long as you want. The idea of planning a trip months ahead so you can buy a permit is not practical.

Our family intentionally stays away from the very crowded areas.

What I am deeply concerned about is that virtually every trailhead in the Three Sisters Wilderness will require an overnight permit. My experience is that the trailheads we use are NOT CROWDED.

Six Lakes

Winopee

Many Lakes

There are so many options for where to go from these trailheads that limiting the access is NOT NECESSARY. We backpacked a ton in these areas over the summer and sometimes saw one or two other groups for the whole trip.

My suggestion is to either eliminate the need for overnight permits for the less used areas or greatly increase the number of permits available.

Honestly, it is the South Sister and Green Lakes Areas that need to have limited use to preserve the experience.

In addition, I feel that a fee of \$5 per night PER PERSON is outrageous. Many times we don't even know how long we will be gone. So much depends on the weather.

We do not have the ability to go backpacking on a Monday - Wednesday. To be perfectly honest, if this plan goes through, we will go backpacking anyway even if we can't get an overnight permit.

Please don't make our family feel like criminals for trying to enjoy the UNCROWDED trails - that seriously do not need to be permitted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Angela Hubler, CPA
Resident of Bend since 1991