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First name: Doris

Last name: Tai

Organization:

Title:

Comments: permit fees

Kudos on putting the permit fee system in place!... never popular, but definitely needed in overused, easily-accessed areas.

However, I don't believe I've seen where the money goes and/or how the money will be used. Much more palatable if users know that the money will be funneled into protection, rehabilitation, monitoring, i.e. to the ground, and particularly to those areas most in need. permit administration is not as palatable, especially since there's an additional fee for processing already tacked on. The more people understand and then are able to see the benefits of the fees, the better (though I realize that much of the benefit derives from a heightened sense of solitude).

A \$3 day use fee seems appropriate and in keeping with the current user fees. The \$5 per night/per person fee seems high, but again, if the money enhances the experience or benefits the resource, is tolerable.

I would definitely take into consideration families with small children. It's often hard to plan ahead and spontaneity is often key. For day use, I would keep a high percentage of the permits unreserved. The opposite is probably true for overnight use....families take more planning.

We need to encourage younger folks to get out into the woods. they're largely tied to electronics and they are our future. They're esteem for the outdoors is critical.

The stickier wicket comes if you are trying to differentiate between weekday and weekend use, and/or seasonal use since demand is so much greater for a summer weekend day than a tuesday in october. Far easier to let the permit system attempt to level things off for you (much easier, but not nearly as popular). Also...how far in advance can people reserve and can they reserve for only the following year or for outyears as well? What does OR state parks do?...their system seems to work well.

Thanks again for doing this and for allowing comment. Good luck!

Doris Tai