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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Permit System Public Comment

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the proposed permit system. While I do agree that a permit system could be beneficial to curbing the crowds and reducing environmental impact, I worry that the proposed cost of the backpacking permits will be prohibitive to many people.

Charging per-person, per-night will greatly increase the costs of outdoor recreation and serves as a minor form of financial gate-keeping to those who cannot afford such costs. Outdoor recreation is for everyone, public lands are for everyone.

I entirely sympathize with, and understand the need for a permit system, however the current proposed iteration for fees, specifically for multi-night excursions, is far too high.

Might I suggest instead sticking to the current permit system that is used for trails such as Obsidian and Pamela Lake, which only requires paying for one group permit at a flat price per night. That way, families or groups do not have to spend so much to go on a multi-night backpacking trip.

I too want reduced crowds and environmental impact on the trails, and I am very disturbed that a few folks (among the many) have left the trails in bad shape by not following Leave No Trace principals and thus, necessitating the need for a permit system. However, I worry about the financial strain these new fees would cause on families and even individuals wanting to enjoy the serenity of a multi-night backpacking trip.

I ask you to please reconsider charging per night, per person and rather, charging one group permit at a flat price per night with a cap on group size. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Miranda Daviduk
Corvallis, OR