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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Public Comment for Wilderness use permits

Good Morning,

I am writing in regards to the proposed fee for use in Oregon Wilderness Areas. I live in Bend, OR. I am very active and love to visit the Jefferson and Three Sisters Wilderness areas with regularity to hike, climb and trail run.

I have seen the fee system for overnight use work very effectively in Colorado and in Canadian wilderness areas. That part makes sense to me because overnight use is the most damaging to the environment.

It saddens me that you are proposing daily fees for non-overnight users. \$4 to hike!? Not to mention that this is already on top of the NW forest passes and other fees we pay for conservation. I don't think that establishing a "quota per person per day" is the way that our Federal and state lands should be managed. Again - I think the overnight fee is acceptable given the use - but a daily fee will discourage people from using their public land.

Lastly, as a mountaineer, it is difficult to swallow the fact that mountaineering clubs could effectively "buy up" the overnight permits when they come out. The mountaineering clubs do so much for the mountains and it would be sad for them to be competing with average recreational users for permits. Mountaineering clubs also provide expertise and safety to inexperienced mountaineers who would otherwise require more search and rescue, helicopters, and fatalities on technical mountains. Give the clubs a break - they have defended these mountains for hundreds of years.

I understand the need for some kind of fee structure but I oppose daily fees and will continue to be vocal in my defiance of them. I support overnight fees, however the limit should be high on how many are able to be purchased so that groups can't buy them all up.

Thank you for your consideration,

-Peter Knudtsen

Sent from my iPhone

