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Organization:

Title:

Comments: RG October 14 article re: daily limits in Oregon Wilderness areas

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> To Whom It May Concern; here are our concerns and comments below -

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> 1. Thank you for addressing these issues. It's definitely a problem that needs to be fixed.

> 2. We believe having 50% of the permits reservable and 50% on a same day option. PNW weather, as you know, is rather unpredictable.

> 3. The bigger issue, imho, is not necessarily overuse but more about education and enforcement. Permitting and limiting the THs will do very little if the people using the wilderness do not understand proper travel best practices.

> 4. We feel that a lot more education and enforcement needs to be included. Fines as much as \$80 or more (like they do in the Wind River range) for illegal camping or discarding of human waste could be a good incentive to correct poor behavior.

> 5. And, having dogs in the wilderness is a joke if you are concerned about soiling our water and degrading our landscape. Not one dog owner will bury (or pack out) their dog's waste. Dogs must be banned like they are in specific sections of the Wasatch and other areas.

> 6. Finally, we heard rumors that the daily permit limit for South Sister will be 30 people/day. If this is true, we strongly encourage you to reconsider this policy. 30 people skiing South Sister in the spring is hardly a crowd and damaging when one is on top of 7' of snow. And, it's important to remember, the backcountry skiing window on South Sister is very short given the snowpack and weather (maybe 30 days?). Perhaps have a higher daily permit limit earlier and then less later in the summer. Again, education and enforcement are really critical.

Having 'volunteers' like they do on Teton Pass in the Tetons could be very helpful. (We may even volunteer.....).

> 7. On a side note, SOMEONE needs to take care of the 'crime' going on at Dutchman Flat snopark. It has to be illegal for Elk Lake lodge to use Dutchman Flat as their personal parking lot in the winter (private business uses publicly plowed parking lot for their customers over several nights??). We see it happen all the time. It's a disgrace and unbelievable that we/you allow this to happen. We went there this past winter and there were only 5 parking spots available (the rest taken by Elk Lake overnight customers). I have several possible solutions (I think.....) to share if interested.

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> We are happy to help and get involved. We bc ski (and hike/backpack) all over Oregon, CA, WA, Utah, WY, BC and elsewhere. Thank you for your consideration.

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