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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Permit Fees

First, I would like to know which 19 trails will require this permit and fee. The public should decide whether the permit and fees would happen at all. I have hiked all of these areas many times, mostly on week days, and they are never crowded on week days, yet you are requiring permits on weekdays. It is insane. We have seen a ranger every single time we hike the Santiam Lake area and he told us he was sent there to count people and he had not seen a single person in 2 days. I have hiked Jefferson Park many times, not crowded on weekdays, although I agreed with the overnight camping permit requirement. I have hiked Tenas Lakes area & Scott Mountain, see very few people on weekdays. And Waldo Lake? What a joke! Very few hikers there ever. There are a lot of campers in the summer that pay to camp in the campground, but very few hikers. As for fees. you need to keep it extremely low, as low as possible. First of all, Recreation.gov does a terrible job! It is insane to give them any money. All the money should go directly to the forest service. You should survey citizens and you would hear about how bad Recreation.gov is. Do you know what a terrible job they do reserving campsites in Oregon? They show everything as reserved when most of it is not. I have been a victim of this many times and have spent hours futilely driving around campsites after Recreation.gov showed everything full or reserved only to learn the next day that most of those sites were still open. I met so many other tired, angry people on those trips who had been going through the same nonsense as me. Campsites should be first come first serve so people are not forced to book them a year in advance and just lose their money if they cannot go. You should fire Recreation.gov. I do not think people should have to pay to take a day hike. It is already very expensive to hike when you factor in the cost of gas. Now you want people to pay \$4 or \$5 just to take a hike in the forest. The biggest problem by far with this permitting is that people who day hike cannot plan these hikes far in advance. I never plan my day hikes more than 2 days in advance since things like weather are a big factor. It is insane to expect people to plan day hikes far in advance. I am afraid this permitting system will prevent people from hiking altogether.

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Mary Ann

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