

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/11/2019 11:12:28 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Public Input

Thank you for giving the public a chance to put in input regarding the new fee system. As someone who has grown up in the Willamette valley and hiked in these areas the last 30 years, I can see the need for something to be done. Again, I can see the need for permits and many areas and i understand there needs to be funding to staff these areas and provide education to people using the outdoors. I have gotten permits several times for Pamela Lake and never had an issue with then or minded the fee. When i heard the new permit system would be in place I honestly thought it would be similar to the Pamela Lake and Obsidian Trail current permit system. I was saddened and a little shocked to see what the new fee would be. The current system for pamelia works great. I love having the option to either get a small group permit or large group permit. I like that the fee includes multiple people and still maintains a limit on group size at 12. I lead group hikes for a women's group, we always keep our groups under 12 but it's not always set in stone who will make it. Making each individual have a permit puts so many boundaries to getting outside. I would even pay more for a small group permit just to have the flexibility. I'm also worried with hig demand areas, like Jefferson Park, Green Lakes and South Sister, how it would be prevented for people to buy up multiple weekends to try and resell. Making the permit individual, means multi day trips for families could cost a significant amount. I really hope there is be some revision to the fee and permit system. Please take a look again at current Pamilia and Obsidian trails permits and see if there is a way for that system to work for the new limited entry areas. I know there needs to be a solution in places but gosh it makes me sad to think I will not be able to visit some of my favorite areas whenever I want. Another idea would be week day permits to be a lower price to encourage more people to get out during less busy times. I'm lucky to hike during the week time to time and I can tell you that even in the most popular areas of Jefferson Wilderness I can find myself alone or with only a few others during the week. Please continue to make the outdoors accessible by all. Thank you again for listening to public input and I look forward to seeing what the final plan with be.

Ellen Drury