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First name: Erin

Last name: Hunnicutt

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Concerning new permit system

To whom this may concern:

I'm writing as a forest loving citizen of Central Oregon.

I am a mother of 3, that 2 years ago was battling postpartum depression. The fresh air and open space to explore was what gave me sanity back. I spent endless hours a week in the forest hiking away all the stresses of life and regaining the peace I hadn't known in a while.

Since then, my love and passion for the forest and all that they offer has only grown deeper.

My children have all learned how to respect the resources within our public lands.

We take bags with us for trail clean up, they've learned the purposes of staying on trail and not making their own, they know trail right of ways, and it's our number one means of meaningful family memory making.

I don't hate the idea of a permit system. But, as someone who can't afford to pay even \$1/person, per day, I ask that you will keep digging for a better plan.

As it is, we pay for National Park passes, State Park passes, and Snow Park passes. If there are additional fees added, it will price out families like ours. The land we so desperately love will be so close, but completely out of reach.

I know some have argued permits are only required a few months, just pay the money! Here's the thing, those permit required months are prime hiking time. Road closures decrease access to a number of proposed permit trails during other months of the year.

Additionally, Summer months are when all kids are out of school. That means, I never hike alone and would have even more expense added than just a permit for myself and my tot.

Isn't everyone worried about kids being too drawn to electronics in this generation and not being active enough? If the use of the forest is priced out of reach it will only increase hours of inactive time for children like mine.

Has there been considered an in/out of district permit system? So those that pay State/ county taxes can have a discounted pass?

Or even just limiting the number of permits (people) per day without an extra fee associated with it? You could require the permits to hike and ticket if not followed through?

Even a disability pass like the All Access pass offered through the National Park system?

Thank you for your time, I know this decision is multifaceted!

Sincerely,

~Shiloh Hunnicutt

Sent from my iPhone