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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Permits

I have been thinking a great deal about this permit system. I am more fortunate than others in that at least I will be able to go mid-week when the demand is not as high. Nature is a place that should not have a price tag attached to it. It is a place where families can take their kids, keeping them physically in good shape and teach them the appreciation of wildlife and how beautiful our State is. These families are trying their hardest to provide alternatives to the constant barrage of cell phones, video games and TV. Nature should not be a place that only those with the money can afford to go. I think the fee structure is prohibitive and will become another place, like amusement parks, movies etc, that can only be done as a special treat because money is tight. That does not seem fair to me and I think a lot of thought needs to go in that direction. If there is a fee structure, it should be more concentrated on overnight stay and not placed on so many of the hikes because your list covers almost all the hikes I do on a yearly bases. Maybe the most popular places such as Green Lakes, South Sister, Jefferson Park via the Whitewater Trail and others that see the most traffic should have fees but not all the trailheads mentioned.

I am a member of groups and hike with them as well as on my own. This will so greatly affect the groups in the area, it will probably make it nearly impossible to plan hikes to any of these areas. Hike leaders, who are volunteers, should not have the burden of paying these fees up front and lose money when people are no shows. These groups serve primarily people that area not experienced to go to these areas on their own and it will eliminate so many people that can benefit from he health and psychological benefits of exploring such beautiful areas. I know it is so much more complex but permits should not be purchased too far ahead of the hiking date. I think that will help make it feasible for groups and individuals to plan more realistically and actually go on the hikes requiring permits. Currently I believe on Obsidian Trail and other permit areas, they can be purchased quite far in advance. If it is closer to the date (like two or three days), then groups can have people sign up with the understanding that they will try and get permits for 12 (let's say) but if less are available, those that sign up first will have an advantage and not all will get on the trip. I don't know how permits work in the Sierras but I heard they were available very close to departure dates.

I definitely think that some permits should be set aside for the day of. Possibllly 15 to 20 percent of the permits per day.

I may come up with more thoughts as time goes on but these are the original one that I am thinking about right now.

Please give all this and the comments of others a great deal of thought because we all do care about the environment and our trails (those are the people that will respond to this request) and want to be able to continue to explore and enjoy them.

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