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Organization:

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Comments: Special recreation permit fee

Let me start with the current fees that are already in place:

NW forest pass for me to park at a trailhead, an Invasive species permit for me to go kayaking and a State pass for me to hike at Smith Rock. National parks pass to go to crater lake. I moved to Bend 20 years ago to be able to recreate in my backyard, the three sisters wilderness. I pay more in taxes, make less, pay more for housing to live in Bend, because of the quality of life I get for it in return. Now, under the permit system, I won't be able to trail run my favorite trails 3 x week after work. I won't be able to do a quick hike up to moraine lake after work with my wife for our anniversary. Why should you ask? Well, because for the extremely low access limits you've set for the trails, permits will be sold out the minute they become available. Even in the day of, permits will be gobbled up by the 20 tourists out of the 10,000 that are here at anyone one time. There should be NO PERMITS FOR LOCALS Monday through Thursday. Permits for everyone on Friday through Sunday at NO CHARGE and permits for non locals all week. The biggest problem is that tourist and economic development agencies such as Visit Bend etc promote the region 24/7. Maybe we ought to focus on the real problem, and not advertise Oregon and Washington nationally and internationally to attract more tourists than the region can handle. With the permit system in place you are forcing people to bushwhack instead of using the trails to bypass the ludicrous permit system. I understand we need to control the crowds, but don't go after the locals when the non-locals are the issue.

Regards,

Mark van Hilten

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