Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/14/2019 12:15:07 AM
First name: Jason
Last name: Gough
Organization:
Title:
Comments: fees

From my understanding, the goal of the proposed permit/fee program is to limit or redistribute access to the more sensitive trails/areas in order to preserve these areas and prevent further destruction. Wouldn't instilling a permit system ONLY do the trick? Why make people pay too? One may say that you won't have enough staff to police the permitted areas now, but if you are setting a permit system, then you will not have as many people entering these areas, therefore no need for further staff. Why not try the permit only program to see how it works to keep these sensitive environments clean and clear? Try that for a year, get some data, then make the decision to instill a fee program or not. Why permit PLUS a fee right off the bat?

Also, if a fee program is put forth, please reconsider the age range of paying users. I am a father of 4 and planning to take my kids backpacking. Under the proposed fee, that $5 a head per night. That gets quite expensive really quick for families. Why not back the age to 18 for paying users, instead of 12? Helps families and kids be more exposed to the wilderness. Thanks!

Jason Gough
Salem, OR