

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/26/2019 1:28:09 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: ATTN: Recreation Fees

As a backpacking family with young kids, it is our dream to Section Hike the Oregon PCT. While I am in favor of limited entry, and have used it at Pamela Lake for several years, this new plan is confusing and unacceptable. When our kids are teenagers the cost for a weekend or more of backpacking in this LEA will be expensive. Requirements to enter and, in particular, exit on specific dates, are completely unacceptable for families with kids or people who are unsure of exact plans. This is a safety issue.

The proposal that would allow only a few groups of users exclusive access to 110 miles of the PCT for extended periods of time is completely unjustified and unacceptable.

This proposal seem punitive for many families who enjoy 3-5 weekends a year in this area. We do live nearby and we should be encouraged to access our local wilderness areas. However, instead, we will be looking to other areas that are several more hours driving from our home to access backpacking recreation. Maybe that is the idea - yes, to spread people to less used areas, but for those of us who live nearby, it isn't the best choice for our environmental footprint.

Also, people travel evenings and weekends. Making people pick up permits from a USFS office, when open, is a complete pain. You'll need to extend your hours during the summer to allow for this.

Last, competition for access will be fierce. In affluent communities near the LEA, users will likely buy up all the permits, leaving no space for others. And when they buy up permits and don't show up, that will be really frustrating. Yes, I expect to plan out weekends and be ready to reserve the first day possible but this process seems like it will be more difficult, complicated and confusing than a Happy Isles permit on the John Muir Trail.

Please allow for a family rate for backpacking in the new LEA. Encourage families to get out into the wilderness.

Thank you,

Jennifer Beathe

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