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Comments: Comment on days in advance for new wilderness fees

I am writing to address the issue of how many days in advance permits for the Sisters and Jefferson Wilderness should be available.

I am writing to support a system that values the opportunities for individuals and small groups are protected in a way that balances equitable access to the wilderness areas in an era where use of these passes by outfitters and tour guides for profit could upset this balance.

It seems to me that a two pronged approach is needed to ensure equitable access. One prong ensures that permits are available when hikers are making plans. The other prong is designed to ensure a balanced access.

The National Parks Service uses a system for a three month window for access to certain restricted sites. However, I think these wilderness permits could be issued on a rolling basis with the first tranche out three months in advance, a second two months, a third one month and a certain number each day starting ten days in advance.

Equitable access requires limits on the number of permits sold to larger private groups, tour guides and outfitters during the permit release times. Determining the appropriate balance between the various interested parties requires reconciling the principles of equal access for all individuals and appropriate interests of the business sector.

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Sent from my iPad