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Comments: New Rec Fees: comments

I work as a Forest Service volunteer maintaining trails on the Willamette National Forest including the Wilderness areas that will be affected by the new fees and quotas. Last year along I spent over 250 hours doing volunteer work so I am out on these trail a lot.
I feel that the most overused areas will benefit from quotas, but this may be overkill for at least half the named trailheads, and not necessary except for on weekends for many more. I am very concerned that there needs to be a transparent process for using the fees directly for improvement and maintenance of these trails, such as hiring more summer trail crews. I think a good use of some of the funds would be to place composting toilets at high use areas in the backcountry. I would also like to see some of the money that is collected used in public awareness campaigns to let people know about all the very nice trails out there that are hardly getting any use at all and would actually benefit from more boots on the ground. I know a lot of these trails, so you can ask me!

I hope there will be a process so that volunteers such as myself who are working directly with the Forest Service and the High Cascades Forest Volunteers will be able to go out on trails to do work without having to obtain any kind of permit. An incentive program where volunteers can turn in documentation of hours in exchange for free permits would help everyone.

Sincerely,
Beth Dayton
Salamander Crew Leader
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