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Title:

Comments: Re: Wilderness Permits/Fees

On December 31, 2019 at 5:24 PM RALPH RICHARDSON <jr-richardson@comcast.net> wrote:

Imagine this scenario: You want to climb Mt. Washington or maybe South Sister. You apply for a permit and pay your fee, thereby locking yourself into a specific date. The day arrives, and like all wise climbers you check the weather before hitting the trail. You find high winds and possibility of rain or snow in the forecast. Now you are confronted with a dilemma. Do you go anyway, because this is your only permitted date, or do you bag it.

As a former climbing guide and Mountain Rescue member I can see a real danger here. You are going to get a certain number of people who say "I've got this one shot, and I'm going for it". I hope you have a big SAR budget, because you've just set yourselves up for an onslaught of rescues.

Put your money into education, not regulation. Cite people who litter and camp in non designated areas. I believe your proposals will open you to a storm of lawsuits. I know you have a tough job to do and appreciate your efforts on behalf of all wilderness users, but these proposals are not the way to go.

Ralph Richardson