

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/1/2020 7:53:00 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thoughts on preserving wilderness through fee-permit system

Greetings Friends:

Out of respect for your TIME, I have included my personal introduction along with a brief bio and credentials FOLLOWING the discussion concerning the proposed fee-permit system for three of Oregon's wilderness areas.

Regulations are often the best and most economical and manageable method for gaining objective compliance where the general public is involved. A simple across-the-board fee-permit system might be all that can be implemented in an effort to help preserve the primitive nature of Oregon's beautiful designated wilderness areas. However, I believe there might be another way that holds even more potential benefit not only for the designated wilderness areas but also for ALL outdoor environments in the Pacific Northwest.

Administratively this might be difficult, but how about this?

Institute a "reduced fee" permitting system for the previously proposed wilderness areas, and also include exemptions based on individual membership in organizations that provide environmental training that promotes greater awareness of the impact on nature resulting from human presence. For example, card-carrying members of the Sierra Club, or the (Seattle) Mountaineers, or REI, or any organization that cherishes the natural world in a way such that they provide education about preserving our environment.

I believe that EDUCATION is the key to establishing a culture of respect and preservation. And if a system of incorporating (paid) membership in organizations that contribute significantly to that goal along with government regulation, then we might see an even greater return on the dollars spent on this effort to save the natural beauty that defines the Pacific Northwest.

I WOULD LOVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND MORE TIME IN A CONVERSATION WITH YOU AND OTHERS IN AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE OREGON'S LANDSCAPE. Please accept my invitation to contact me as you see fit for the purpose of further exploring my ideas above, or any others of perceived benefit.

My brief bio.

I am Jim Davis. I will turn 68-years-old in April of this year (2020). I came to Oregon from the east coast of the US in the early 1970s. I took a Back Country Methods class from Mel Jackson (a well known and prominent outdoor leader) in 1976. I learned and practiced "no trace camping and hiking" from then on, and in 1979 I joined the volunteer organization Eugene Mountain Rescue (EMR). I was an avid rock climber, mountaineer (I have "summitted" most of the Cascade peaks), and forest hiker. The organization EMR provided technical volunteer services for the Lane County Sheriff's Office as well as other agencies throughout the state of Oregon wherever needed (Mt Hood, Mt. Jefferson, as well as those mountains found in Lane County and on the Oregon coast or at various cliffs.

I also assisted, through construction activities (building the log cabin shelter at Gold Lake Parking lot) as well as active membership, the Willamette Backcountry Ski Patrol in the Willamette Pass area for several years.

The last time I climbed to the summit of Mt. Washington was July of 2012 at age sixty, and since then, I have indulged less energetic pursuits. But my love of the outdoors is undiminished even though my physical energy is not what it used to be in years past.

So, I can personally help to preserve the Oregon wilderness areas by not going there! But for those who do go there, it would be best if they traveled with the knowledge of how to do so in the least damaging way, and acted to set the example for others of how to treat the environment around them.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Best Regards,

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