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Comments: pass reservations a terrible idea

The decision to charge to hike into our wilderness areas with a paid reservation has no basis on reality. For most of us who live in Central Oregon and work Monday through Friday, we rely on the weekends as the time we can enjoy our forests. And the decision on whether or not to hike that weekend is often based upon weather conditions and whether or not our current job and family situation will allow the time for a hike. The proposed paid reservation will in essence eliminate our opportunities to enjoy the wilderness as we know the weekend slots will fill up immediately and eliminate options for the rest of us. And for those who reserve those times months in advance and for whatever reason do not show for their allotted times (poor weather, forgetfulness, emergencies, etc), you have in essence shut down the enjoyment of the wilderness to just a handful of people who will show up on those reservation days. The Obsidian Trail is an example of how limiting access basically eliminates use. We have retired friends who hike regularly in the wilderness and when they show for their allotted time, have told us that even though the reservations are full that day, they and maybe one or two other groups show up. They love the experience of not seeing anyone else, but that is terrible for the rest of us. You are forgetting that to "save" the wilderness, you need to enable people to "see" the wilderness. By this regulation, you are in essence shutting the forests down. How terrible!!

I am very, very much against this decision.

Lynnea Miller