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Comments: Comment on Proposed permits

Limiting access to only those who have the means to pay for a permit is an excellent way to keep low-income people and families out of wilderness areas.

Accessing public lands is one of the few low-cost recreation still available to the public. There is still a cost, however. The cost of transportation, for some, isn't minimal. Appropriate clothing isn't cheap, even when purchased at thrift stores. For many families there is also an opportunity cost - they're taking unpaid time off work to enjoy the wilderness.

Limiting access to over-run areas to preserve the wilderness isn't a bad thing. It can be done without further limiting access to people who are financially challenged.

A permit system, where one must have a permit to enter but the permits aren't available for purchase. The permits are available to anyone, regardless of their financial resources.

Having a specified number of permits that can be requested via an online system, a specified number that can be requested on-site each day (because not everyone has the ability to access online systems, particularly those with certain disabilities), and a specified number that can be accessed via a lottery system are ways to ensure that most people who want to visit these popular areas have a chance to acquire a permit to do so.

Requiring people to go through a class prior to being granted a permit is another way to reduce impact. An online and in-person class educating people on LNT principles, pet access rules, trail etiquette, etc would do more to reduce impact than would a fee.

Signed,

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