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Comments: Hiking and Backpacking permits and fees

I hike on a moderate basis. I have explored most of Mt Hood and am looking forward to the Sisters Wilderness. The fees as stated in the journal article would push me towards finding new areas to hike. These are public lands and I pay substantial state and federal taxes already. I know these don't go to the forest service, that is really a shame, but I have a hard time paying extra to use public lands. The fees as stated could add \$400 or \$500 to my annual hiking and backpacking costs (I go out at least 10 times per year and usually have multiple people.) This is in addition to parking permits and everything else...

I don't have a problem with permits in general - but using "over-crowding" as an excuse to generate revenue is pretty shady, even by government standards. Mt St Helens, Rainer and the Enchantments all have reasonable systems, truly controlling the environmental impact.

I see enforcement of this being a nightmare. Many people will ignore it, because of the cost. Rangers interactions will become antagonistic rather than the positive experience they are now. Think about it - many people will treat the Rangers poorly for asking for a permit because it is a nuisance. Just another program for the government to harass people. The Rangers job will change from public service to enforcement, even if that is not the intent.

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2019/10/08/hiking-permits-three-sisters-mount-jefferson-wilderness-mount-washington/3903695002/>