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First name: Megan

Last name: Bernardini

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

First, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to allow public feedback regarding permitting this area. I am in full support of a permit system. When other areas in Colorado began using a permit system, I was a little disappointed because I could no longer just wake up and spontaneously go, but the areas I frequently hike now require permits for hiking.

I visit Rocky Mountain National Park and Brainard Lake more often now because of the permits. Here are a few reasons why:

- My timed entry permit guarantees a parking spot in the area that I would like to hike.
- The trails are less crowded and I'm able to really enjoy the wilderness more than I was previous to the permit system.
- The landscape is in much better shape than non-permitted trails. I hike in the summer to see the wildflowers, and there's nothing like the carpets of flowers in the Brainard Lake area.
- The people on the trails tend to follow the rules and regulations. I still occasionally encounter an off leash dog, or someone who doesn't stay on the trail, but these events are few and I believe the permitting system encourages people to follow the rules and regulations of the area.
- The permits generally mean there are more rangers around to help out if there is an issue.

I haven't been to this area but would like to go. I've avoided it because I have heard about the trash, the human and dog poop, and the disrespectful people. With a permit for camping or hiking, I would be more inclined to go visit, and would be able to plan my trip around when I was able to obtain a permit.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Best,

Megan Bernardini