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Comments: The popularity of the BWCAW is only increasing, as overall overnight/camping permits are being reduced. Consequently it's getting harder and harder to get overnight permits on summer weekends unless you reserve in January when the permits open.

It seems there may be a couple different ways to address this:

1. institute a rolling open permit reservation system - opening permit reservations one month at a time. This would distribute open permits across a greater time period.
2. Increasing the price of the permits. It looks like people get a number of permits for the summer season when they open - with no plan to use all of them. Then, when their schedule becomes clear, they pick one of the permits to use. Perhaps they don't even bother to cancel the other permits? An increase in permit price would reduce the number of people purchasing multiples, and incentivize cancelling their unused permits so others can use them.

It also may be time to consider tying permits to specific routes and campsites. The fight for campsites on a busy summer weekend is one of the least appealing aspects of the BWCAW. If you have a route and a campsite reserved, it eliminates this aspect of the trip, which would be very welcome. This also seems much improved from a safety aspect, in that visitors have defined routes and specific campsites where they should be should an emergency arise. Perhaps not ALL of the campsites are reservable; but some should be.

Lastly, mandate bear-proof food containers. The outfitters can rent or sell them. This would help people, and it would help wildlife. It's time.

Lastly lastly, hire more rangers. I have been going to the BWCAW for 30 years. Beloved campsites are getting trashed. Campers apparently are not getting the message from the educational videos. We could use more enforcement on the water. In those 30 years, I have seen, maybe, 4 rangers.

Thank you.