



United States Department of Agriculture



# Building Equity Into a New Wilderness Permitting System

Willamette and Deschutes  
National Forest



Forest Service

# NEW PERMITTING SYSTEM



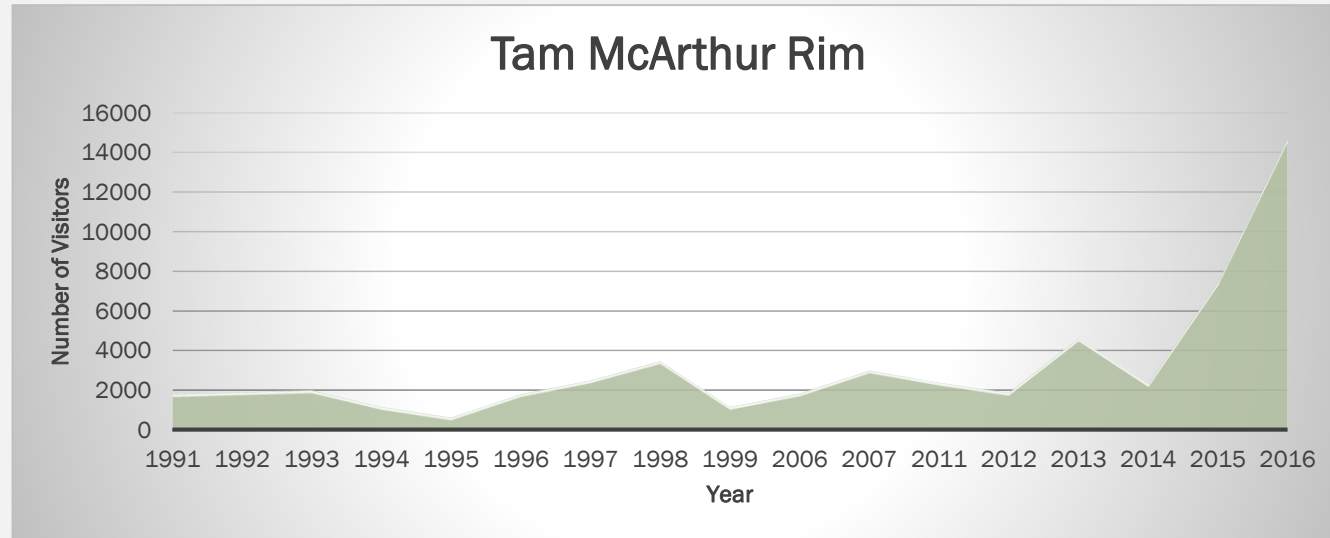
- Why a new permitting system?
  - Tremendous increase in recreation use and impacts
  - Almost 500% increase in some areas
    - Three Sisters – east side access
      - 2011: approximately 35,000 visitor use days
      - 2016: approximately 116,000 visitor use days
    - Jefferson Park – Whitewater Trail
      - 2012: approximately 4,250 visitor use days
      - 2014: approximately 6,200 visitor use days



# NEW PERMITTING SYSTEM



## One trailhead example:





# NEW PERMITTING SYSTEM



- 3 wilderness areas
  - Mt. Jefferson
  - Mt. Washington
  - Three Sisters
- Limited Entry Permits
  - Overnight use
    - All trailheads
  - Day use:
    - 19 of 79 trailheads
  - Season:
    - Friday of Memorial Day weekend to last Friday of September



## CONTEXT: Who uses our forests



- Who uses these wilderness areas?
  - 95% White
  - 7% Hispanic/Latinx
  - 4% Native American/Indigenous
  - 3% Asian
  - 1% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
  - 0% Black/African American

Data from Willamette National Forest NVUM 2017



## CONTEXT: Who uses our forests



- Who uses these wilderness areas?
  - 43% Female
  - 57% Male
- Annual household income?
  - Under \$25k : 14%
  - \$25k - \$50k: 15%
  - \$50k - \$75k: 21%
  - \$75k - \$100k: 18%
  - \$100k - \$150k: 17%
  - Over \$150k: 15%

Data from Willamette National Forest NVUM 2017





# CONTEXT: Who uses our forests



- Oregon Demographics
  - 87% White
    - 76% claim white alone
    - 4% claim two+ races
  - 13% Hispanic/Latinx
  - 5% Asian
  - 2% Black/African American
  - 2% Native American/Indigenous
  - 0.5% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

Via US Census Bureau



# CONTEXT: Who uses our forests



- Oregon Demographics
  - 50% Female
  - 50% Male
- Oregon Annual Income
  - Median income: \$53,270
  - 13.3% in poverty

Via US Census Bureau





# CONTEXT: Who uses our forests



	Linn County	Lane County	Marion County
Median Income	\$49,515	\$47,710	\$53,828
Per Capita Income (2017)	\$24,448	\$27,032	\$24,791
Poverty %	14.3%	16.6%	15.2%

Via US Census Bureau



# CONTEXT: Fees



- Proposed fees:
  - Overnight permits:
    - \$5 per person, per night
    - \$6 per permit processing fee
  - Day use permits:
    - \$3 per person
    - \$1 per person processing fee
  - Children 12 years old and younger are free
    - But still require a permit
- Free use permits – libraries?
- Volunteer permits



## BROADER CONTEXT: Fees in Wilderness



- Research is split
  - It doesn't matter because people without the means already don't use these spaces
  - It matters because people will drive 50 miles to a free site rather than pay for a closer one with a fee
    - Ariely: “the difference between two cents and one cent is small. The difference between one cent and zero is huge!” (Lamborn et al pg 174)





# IDEA GENERATION



- Leadership request:
  - Are there ways to lessen the impacts of a permit system on under-represented and under-served communities?
    - Financial and process impacts
- One solution:
  - Free use permits available from local libraries
- Others?



# IDEA GENERATION



- We want your ideas!
- (Not yet!) Divide into small groups of 4-5
- Brainstorm ideas that could help overcome barriers for underrepresented/underserved communities
- Perform a “SWOT” analysis
- Group share out



# SWOT ANALYSIS



- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats







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# SHARE OUT



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# SWOT on all Proposals



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# AMENDMENTS



- How might you amend your proposal following the SWOT analyses?







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# PICK YOUR FAVORITE PROPOSAL



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