
CENTRAL CASCADES WILDERNESS PERMIT SYSTEM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When are permits required?

The Deschutes and Willamette NFs are implementing a wilderness permit system for the Mt. Jefferson, Mt Washington and Three Sisters wildernesses this year. In 2021 the season for wilderness permits will begin on Friday, May 28th and end on Friday, September 24th. Every year the season will be from the Friday prior to Memorial Day to the last Friday in September.

How do people get permits? All reservations for a limited entry permit need to be made through Recreation.gov either on-line, by calling 1-877-444-6777 or TDD 877-833-6777 , or by doing the reservation at one of the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests' offices. We want to encourage people to take advantage of getting permits online – “go on-line, don't stand in line.”

When can I start making reservations? Reservations for limited entry permits will open on Tuesday, April 6th at 7:00 a.m. Every year permit reservations will be available beginning the first Tuesday in April.

What is the cost? There is a \$1.00 processing charge for day-use permits per individual and a \$6.00 processing charge for overnight-use permits per group. An overnight group can be from 1 to 12 people. The processing charge funds the operation of the reservation system, like processing charges for tickets through Ticketmaster or other reservation systems.

I heard about some other fees, what happened to those fees? Other than the processing fee, there are no other additional costs/fees associated with the limited entry permit. The Forest Service decided to not have a special recreation permit fee at this time. If that decision changes, there will be a public engagement process on any potential future fees.

Will the NW Forest Pass or daily permit be required at trailheads that require one of them? Yes, if a trailhead currently requires a NW Forest Pass or daily permit, the limited entry permit DOES NOT cover that requirement. Visitors still will need to display the appropriate pass in their vehicle

How will permits be made available?

- **Overnight Use Availability:**
 - 40% full season available on April 7.
 - 60% available on a 7-day rolling window.
- **Day Use Availability:**
 - 20-50% of a trailhead's full season will be available on April 7.
 - 50-80% of a trailhead's permits will be available on a 7-day rolling window to allow for people to take more spontaneous trips.

Where are permits required?

Overnight Use

- Limited entry permits are required for all overnight stays in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wilderness areas.
- No limited entry permits are required for overnight stays in the Waldo Lake and Diamond Peak Wilderness areas.

Day Use

- Limited entry permits are required at 19 of 79 trailheads in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wilderness areas (see maps).

Is there a limit to the number of permits an individual can have? People only can have 5 overnight limited entry permits at a time reserved. People should only reserve permits they know they will use. Once the ending date of a permit has passed, an individual can make another overnight reservation.

Many people have expressed concern about people hoarding permits and permits going unused and that is why there is a limit to how many permits a person can reserve at a time.

What is the cancellation policy for a limited entry permit? If someone decides not to use their limited entry permit, we encourage them to cancel their permit to allow others the opportunity to reserve it and go on a trip. The processing charges for permits through Recreation.gov cannot be refunded unless the Forest Service has closed an area due to a wildfire or other public safety reason.

What if I do not use a trailhead to access Wilderness? Visitors that do not enter one of the wildernesses from a wilderness trailhead will still need to have a permit that is associated with the trailhead closest to their point of entry into Wilderness. For day-use this could be a permit from either a limited entry permit trailhead or a self-issued permit trailhead. Avoiding entry from a trailhead does not remove the requirement of a limited entry permit if one is required.

Can I get an overnight permit for three days and just go in and out of the wilderness for day trips for three days? No. An overnight permit is only valid to enter the wilderness on the entry day and from trailhead that is on the permit.

What about areas that don't require a limited entry permit? Where limited entry permits are not required - free, self-issue permits are required:

- Waldo Lake and Diamond Peak trailheads (overnight and day use).
- 60 of 79 trailheads for day use in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters wildernesses without trail quotas.
- All trailheads from the last Friday of September until October 31.

Are there exceptions to the limited entry permit requirement? Yes, the following situations are excepted from getting a limited entry permit:

- Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) Long Distance permit, issued by the Pacific Crest Trail Association for long distance hikers traveling more than 500 miles along the PCT.
 - Camping is restricted to the PCT Corridor and prohibited in certain high use areas.
- Hunters holding only the following valid hunting tags:

- West High Cascade Hunt (119A)
- General archery deer and elk hunt; exemption is only for day use.
- Scouting and group size: administrative decisions regarding scouting and group size will be determined in discussions with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and following additional data gathering by ODFW.
- Volunteers, while volunteering in coordination with the Forest Service

How will low income people get limited entry permits if they cannot afford the processing charge? We will be offering a few passes that can be checked out from our local libraries so that people can still take a trip into the wilderness even if they cannot afford the processing charge for the permit.

What about volunteers who contribute so much to improving these wildernesses? Volunteers working under an approved Forest Service volunteer agreement who contribute 40 hours of labor directly to wildernesses on the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests will get a volunteer pass, which will exempt them from the permit quotas. All volunteer hours must be accounted for through the two forests' official volunteer programs.

Do stock animals and dogs require permits? No, however there is still a limit on 12 head of stock per group.

In addition to the permits are there other new requirements? Yes, there is an elevational fire ban to protect the limited amount of dead and down vegetation used by wildlife for habitat in higher elevations and to protect white bark pine.

- All campfires will be banned above 5,700' elevation in Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wildernesses, as well as some areas lower than 5,700'.
- All campfires will be banned above 6,000' elevation in Diamond Peak Wilderness.

DAY USE QUOTAS

Day use quotas represent the number of individuals that can get a permit.

Three Sisters Wilderness	
Trailhead	Day Use Quota Individual Permits
Scott	12
Obsidian	30
Sisters Mirror	16
Devils Lake Wickiup	100
Green Lakes/Soda Creek	80
Todd Lake*	12
Crater Ditch	16
Lava Camp	40
Broken Top	40
Tam MacArthur Rim	80
Mt. Jefferson Wilderness	
Trailhead	Day Use Quota Individual Permits
PCT Breitenbush / Breitenbush Lake	14
S. Breitenbush	12
Whitewater	30
Pamelia Lake	24
Marion Lake	40
Duffy Lake	30
Jack Lake	60
Mt. Washington	
Trailhead	Day Use Quota Individual Permits
PCT McKenzie Pass	24
Benson/Tenas	30

*Todd Lake quota is for entry into wilderness. People frequently get confused that it is a quota for people wanting to hike around the lake. Please assure them hiking around the lake does not require a limited entry permit.

OVERNIGHT USE QUOTAS

Three Sisters Wilderness				A single Group Permit can cover up to 12 individuals	
Trailhead	Quota Group	Trailhead	Quota Group	Trailhead	Quota Group
Scott	14	Six Lakes	9	Woodpecker	3
Obsidian		Elk Lake	4	Pamelia Lake	12
Linton Lake	2	Quinn Meadow	3	Minto Mountain	4
Foley	7	Sisters Mirror	5	Bingham Ridge	
Separation	3	Devils Lake Wickiup	17	Marion Lake	10
Rainbow	3	Green Lake – Soda Creek	14	Jefferson Lake	3
Horse Creek		Todd Lake	3	Pine Ridge	3
French Pete/Pat Saddle	3	Crater Ditch	4	Big Meadows Horse Camp	13
Upper Lowder		Broken Top		Duffy Lake	
Upper East Fork	3	Tam McArthur Rim	5	Maxwell Butte	
French Pete	3	Three Creek Meadow	3	Cabot Lake	5
Rebel	5	Park Meadow	3	Bear Valley	3
Ollalie		Chush Falls	2	PCT Santiam	12
Elk Creek		Pole Creek	9	Jack Lake	5
South Fork		Scott Pass	4	Round Lake	3
Crossing Way	Millican				
Box Canyon	Black Crater	Mt Washington Wilderness			
Skookum	5	Lava Camp	9	Patjens	3
Taylor Burn	6			PCT Big Lake	2
Helen Lake		Mt. Jefferson Wilderness		Hortense Lake-Access Point	3
Jack Pine		Roaring Creek	4	Dry Creek – Access Point	3
Irish Taylor	Crown Lake	PCT McKenzie Pass		6	
Many Lakes	3	PCT Breitenbush/Breitenbush Lake	7	Hand Lake	3
Deer Lake		South Breitenbush	5	Benson/Tenas	8
Winopee/Corral Lake	Triangulation	Fingerboard Prairie		3	
Corral Swamp	Cheat Creek	Tenas Lake			
Lucky Lake	5	Whitewater	8	Robinson Lake	3

March 2, 2021