

LD4330  
1981  
P4  
Cop2

# MT JEFFERSON

## WILDERNESS USER SURVEY

Everyone wants wilderness to remain high quality. But this requires careful planning. To help protect our wilderness areas from overuse and to insure visitors an unspoiled recreation experience, we need to learn more about you--what you do and what you prefer.

Please try to answer every question, since a single missing answer decreases the value of all your answers. Try to answer what you believe to be true for you. There are no right or wrong answers; the best response is the one which most closely reflects your own personal feelings and beliefs.

Your name will not be used. Our data will be reported for large groups, like this, "Of the wilderness users in our survey, 60% were male and 40% were female." You can be assured that your personal views will not be revealed.

The questionnaire is divided into sections to make it easier to answer.

A number of different ideas have been suggested for distributing user permits in wilderness areas. In this section, we would like to know your reactions to these alternatives for the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area. Please consider each idea carefully, since your reactions are important in evaluating each alternative. Assume each individual user, including yourself, would be required to obtain a permit by the suggested alternative.

### Alternative 1

#### PURCHASE PERMITS

All individual users would be required to purchase permits from the Forest Service during the summer season. A nominal fee would be charged for permits during "low-use" days (such as midweek). For the high-use days (weekends and holidays), the permit would cost more.

#### This would mean:

1. Individuals could purchase permits from the Forest Service for as many dates as they wished.
2. Permits could be transferred to individuals other than the original purchaser.
3. Individuals could choose between the "low-use" permit and the "high use" permit depending on which day(s) they wished to use the Mt. Jefferson wilderness.
4. Permits could be purchased at any time prior to the trip, including the day of the trip, until all trips for the day were taken.

1. Do you think this is a fair method of distributing permits for the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area?

7.4% Definitely yes

35.1 Probably yes

5.3 Don't know

19.1 Probably no

33.0 Definitely no

N = 188

2. How would this system affect your chances of obtaining a wilderness permit into the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area?

18.8% It wouldn't affect my chances at all; I could purchase a permit whenever I wished to use this wilderness area.

35.5 It would limit my chances of obtaining a permit only occasionally; most of the time I would be able to purchase a permit.

N = 186

22.6 My chances of obtaining a permit would be greatly restricted; most of the time I would be unable to purchase a permit.

4.8 I could never obtain a permit under this system.

18.3 I don't know how this would affect my chances.

3. Would you try to obtain a permit for Mt. Jefferson by purchase?

26.2% Definitely yes

37.4 Probably yes

7.5 Don't know

N = 187

19.3 Probably no

9.6 Definitely no

4. In outlining this permit system, we stated that permits during "low-use" days would cost a nominal amount. How much would you be willing to pay for such a permit for the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area? (PUT YOUR BUYING PRICE IN THE BLANK BELOW).

N = 183

\$1.64 is the highest amount I would pay for a wilderness permit for a "low-use" day (probably Monday through Friday). I would buy a permit if you offered to sell me one at this price.

N = 182

5. Now suppose you wanted to purchase a permit for a "high-use" day such as the Fourth of July weekend. How much would you be willing to pay for such a permit? (PUT YOUR BUYING PRICE IN THE BLANK BELOW).

\$2.94 is the highest amount I would pay for a wilderness permit for a "high-use" day. I would buy a permit if you offered to sell me one at this price.

6. If you would not be willing to purchase a permit for the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area, would you explain why: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 2

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS

All permits for trips during the summer session into Mt. Jefferson would be reserved before the desired trip date. Priority would be given to those persons who "reserved" a particular date the earliest.

This would mean:

1. Persons planning the furthest in advance would have the best chance at receiving a particular date.
2. Once a date was "filled," no more permits would be issued for that day.
3. Persons would be allowed to reserve more than one date per season.
4. Priority would be given to those whose reservations were made the earliest.

1. Do you think that this is a fair method of distributing permits in the Mt. Jefferson wilderness?

11.2% Definitely yes

36.4 Probably yes

7.5 Don't know

23.5 Probably no

21.4 Definitely no

N = 187

2. How would this system affect your chances of obtaining a wilderness permit?

8.1% It wouldn't affect my chances at all; I could reserve a permit whenever I wished to use the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area.

N = 185

37.3 It would limit my chances of obtaining a permit only occasionally; most of the time I would be able to reserve a permit.

37.8 My chances of obtaining a permit would be greatly restricted; most of the time I would be unable to reserve a permit.

4.3 I could never obtain a permit under this system.

12.4 I don't know how this would affect my chances.

3. Would you try to obtain a permit by reservation?

27.4% Definitely yes

36.6 Probably yes

11.3 Don't know

17.2 Probably no

7.5 Definitely no

N = 186

4. There are several ways in which the Forest Service could administer a reservation system for the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area. Mark the method which you think would be best for you.

38.9% Reserve trip dates by mail; those applications which were postmarked the earliest would be given priority.

N = 162

38.9 Reserve trip dates by telephone; those persons calling earliest would be given priority.

2.5 Reserve trip dates through a ticket agency; the reservation could be made in travel agencies, motels, and department stores in the West; to pay costs a reservation fee of \$3.00 would be charged.

19.8 Reserve trip date in person at any U.S. Forest Service office in the Northwest.

5. If you would not be willing to use a reservation system, would you explain why:

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### Alternative 3

#### LOTTERY

In this variation of a reservation system, users would apply for a trip date of their choice, and applicants would be selected at random for those days when applications exceeded the user limit in the Mt. Jefferson wilderness.

#### This would mean:

1. A user's chance of obtaining a permit on any given day would depend on how many other persons applied for that particular day.
2. Users would have to apply for a date 4-8 weeks in advance; successful and unsuccessful applicants would be notified at least 4 weeks in advance.
3. Persons would be allowed to apply for more than one date per season.
4. Applicants for a given date would be allowed alternate choices in the event they did not obtain their first choice date.
5. Dates not filled by the lottery would be available by telephone reservation or on a first-come/first-served basis.

1. Do you think this is a fair method of distributing permits in the Mt. Jefferson wilderness?

5.4% Definitely yes  
15.7 Probably yes  
4.3 Don't know  
25.9 Probably no  
48.6 Definitely no

$N = 185$

2. How would this system affect your chances of obtaining a wilderness permit?

1.6% It wouldn't affect my chances at all; I could get a permit whenever I wished to use this wilderness area.  
17.6 It would limit my chances of obtaining a permit only occasionally; most of the time I would be able to obtain a permit.  
42.3 My chances of obtaining a permit would be greatly restricted; most of the time I would be unable to get a permit.  
14.3 I could never get a permit under this system.  
24.2 I don't know how this would affect my chances.

$N = 182$

3. Would you try to obtain a wilderness permit into Mt. Jefferson by reservation/lottery?

11.5% Definitely yes

25.8 Probably yes

13.2 Don't know

$N=182$

29.7 Probably no

19.8 Definitely no

4. Assuming a lottery/reservation system was adopted, what would be the minimum lead time you would need between the notification of a successful or denied application and your intended trip departure?  $N=151$

I would need \_\_\_\_\_ months 4.22 weeks \_\_\_\_\_ days of lead time.

5. If you would not be willing to use a lottery, would you explain why:

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Alternative 4  
FIRST-COME/FIRST-SERVED

Permits for the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area would be issued until the daily capacity was reached.

This would mean:

1. Priority would be given to those who arrived the earliest.
2. Users could not reserve permits in advance.
3. Users arriving after the daily permit quota was filled would not receive a permit.

1. Do you think this is a fair method of distributing permits for the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area?

5.3% Definitely yes  
24.1 Probably yes  
12.3 Don't know  
28.3 Probably no  
29.9 Definitely no

N = 187

2. How would this system affect your chances of obtaining a wilderness permit?

7.7% It wouldn't affect my chances at all; I could get a permit whenever I wished to use this wilderness area.  
30.4 It would limit my chances of obtaining a permit only occasionally; most of the time I would be able to get a permit.  
34.8 My chances of obtaining a permit would be greatly restricted; most of the time I would be unable to get a permit.  
5.0 I could never obtain a permit under this system.  
22.1 I don't know how this would affect my chances.

N = 181

3. Would you try to obtain a wilderness permit by first-come/first-served method?

17.2% Definitely yes  
37.6 Probably yes  
9.7 Don't know  
23.7 Probably no  
11.8 Definitely no

N = 186

4. If you would not be willing to use a first-come/first-served permit system, would you explain why: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative 5

MERIT SYSTEM

Preference would be given to users who demonstrate skill in wilderness practices such as no trace camping, outdoor skills, etc., and/or safety. This would be similar to requiring a safety test for hunters or a "rules of the road" test for drivers. On days when applications for permits exceeded use capacity, those users with demonstrated "skills" would be given priority.

This would mean:

1. Persons who did not meet the "merit" criteria might not be able to use the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area on more popular days such as weekends or holidays.
2. Persons wishing to receive "merit" priority would have to take some kind of Forest Service test.
3. Merit criteria would be subject to interpretation and evaluation by the Forest Service.

1. Do you think that this is a fair method of distributing permits in the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area?

16.7% Definitely yes

17.7 Probably yes

12.4 Don't know

22.6 Probably no

30.6 Definitely no

N = 186

2. How would this system affect your chances of obtaining a wilderness permit?

40.0% It wouldn't affect my chances at all; I could get a permit whenever I wanted to use this wilderness area.

26.1 It would limit my chances of obtaining a permit only occasionally; most of the time I would be able to get a permit.

8.3 My chances of obtaining a permit would be greatly restricted.

6.7 I could never obtain a permit under this system.

18.9 I don't know how this would affect my chances.

3. Would you try to obtain a wilderness permit by demonstrating merit?

30.6% Definitely yes

29.0 Probably yes

16.4 Don't know

12.0 Probably no

12.0 Definitely no

N = 183

4. If you do not feel that a "merit" system is warranted, would you please explain why:

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5. If you believe a "merit" system is a fair method of issuing wilderness permits, would you indicate some of the factors you think should be considered in judging merit.

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Some statements in this next section refer to the alternatives just outlined, while other questions apply to other aspects of permit systems.

1. Several methods of issuing permits to wilderness users were outlined in this questionnaire: purchase, reservation, lottery, first-come/first-served, and merit. Each of these "systems" could be used to issue all of the wilderness permits, or a combination of two or more systems could be used. Below you will find a list of the five permit system alternatives. Please indicate which system(s) you think are acceptable for issuing permits in the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area (you may think several systems are acceptable). Then rank these alternatives from most acceptable (#1) to least acceptable (#5).

	Unacceptable	Acceptable	$\bar{x}$ Rankings	Alternative (N for Rankings)
=179	44.7%	55.3%	2.89	PURCHASE N=158
=178	26.4	73.6	2.04	RESERVATION N=159
N=178	70.2	29.8	3.79	LOTTERY N=144
=178	49.4	50.6	3.01	FIRST-COME/FIRST-SERVED N=154
=177	51.4	48.6	3.17	MERIT N=152

2. Listed below are several different ways of giving preference to certain users. Please indicate which ones you favor, then rank them from the one you consider most desirable (#1) to the one you consider least desirable (#5).

	Oppose	Favor	$\bar{x}$ Ranking	(N for Rankings)
=176	23.3%	76.7	1.99	Give preference to private users N=155
=173	94.2	5.8	4.67	Give preference to commercial out-fitters. N=131
=173	74.6	25.4	3.46	Give preference to users who have used the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area the <u>most</u> (either overall, or most recently) N=137
=173	42.2	57.8	2.507	Give preference to users who have been unsuccessful at getting permits in the past. N=150
=171	39.2	60.8	2.514	Give preference to users who demonstrate the most skill in wilderness practices and/or safety. N=146

3. Do you think some times or areas should be managed for "high-use," other times or areas for "low-use"?

82.5% Yes      17.5 No

N=177

4. If a permit system were adopted whereby each individual had to have a permit, where would you prefer to obtain your wilderness permit? Several alternatives are listed below. Please indicate which one(s) you favor and then rank the alternatives from the most desirable (#1) to the least desirable (#5).

	Oppose	Favor	$\bar{X}$ Ranking		(N for rankings)
N=171	26.3%	73.7	2.43	Obtain the permit by mail.	N=164
N=172	26.7	73.3	2.53	Obtain the permit at the trail-head.	N=160
N=171	36.3	63.7	3.01	Obtain the permit at the Forest Service ranger station nearest the Mt. Jefferson wilderness.	N=157
N=171	15.2	84.8	2.55	Obtain the permit at any Forest Service office.	N=163
N=170	82.9	17.1	4.69	Obtain the permit from ticket agencies located in department stores and travel agencies throughout the West.	N=14
N=172	89.0	11.0	5.21	Obtain the permit from a licensed commercial outfitter.	N=17

5. Would you be willing to do any of the following to get a wilderness permit? (Circle one answer for each item).

N=178	Wait 2 weeks to go on the trip	44.4%	55.6%
		no	yes
N=177	Go on a weekday, rather than a weekend or holiday	32.2%	67.8%
		no	yes

6. What area(s) were you visiting when you were interviewed in the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you feel that rationing is necessary in the area(s) you visited?

27.8	Yes, a permit system is needed now:	N=187
18.7	Probably yes, but not for a few years.	
41.2	Probably no, only if the number of users increases dramatically.	
5.9	Definitely no, permits will never be needed in Mt. Jefferson wilderness.	
6.4	I don't know whether permits are needed.	

In this section, we would like to ask some questions about the wilderness trips you have taken this summer.

1. Generally, when you made plans to go to the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area, how far in advance did you decide to go? Please fill in the appropriate numbers.  $N=186$

\_\_\_\_\_ months  $\bar{x}$  3.93 weeks \_\_\_\_\_ days

2. How many weeks of vacation do you have each year? 4.01 weeks.  $N=180$

3. How far in advance does your job permit you to plan your vacation?  $N=175$

$\bar{x}$  3.38 months \_\_\_\_\_ weeks \_\_\_\_\_ days

4. Before your trip(s) into the Mt. Jefferson wilderness this summer, what was your experience with wilderness?  $N=160$

31.3 total number of backcountry trips.

5. How many years ago did you start going on backcountry trips?  $N=184$

10.5 years ago \_\_\_\_\_ this was my first trip

6. If it was not possible to go on a trip into the Mt. Jefferson wilderness area, what would you do instead?  $N=183$

Would you take a trip into another wilderness area? no 8.2% yes 91.8

What other area(s) would be reasonable substitutes for this area? \_\_\_\_\_

13.3% For me, there is no substitute.  $N=173$

7. If it was not possible to use any wilderness area, would you become involved in some other activity? N=176

no      yes  
22.7%    77.3

What other activities would be reasonable substitutes for foregoing the use of wilderness areas?

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53.8% For me, there is no substitute. N=171

8. For some people, using the wilderness is one of the most important things in their lives. To others, it may be just one of a number of interests--something they enjoy but to which they are not strongly committed. Check one statement below that best describes your own position.

N=182

6.0% If I couldn't use the backcountry, I would soon find something else I enjoyed just as much.

29.1 If I had to give up using the backcountry, I would miss it, but not as much as many other interests I have.

31.3 If I couldn't use the backcountry, I would miss it more than almost any other interest I have.

33.5 Using the backcountry is one of the biggest things in my life; if I had to give it up, a great deal of the total enjoyment I now get out of life would be gone.

In this section, we would like to ask some questions about your background which will help us compare your answers to those of other people. All of your answers are strictly confidential.

1. How old are you? 31.4 years old.  $N = 185$

2. Are you 67.2% male; 32.8 female?  $N = 186$

3. How many years of school have you completed?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12  
 Some college? 29.7 B.A. or equivalent? 36.2  
 1.1% 1.1 1.6 12.4

M.A. or equivalent? 13.5

Advanced degree (M.D. or Ph.D., etc.)? 4.3

$N = 185$

4. Please check the space that comes closest to your total family income before taxes:

<u>2.7%</u> Less than 3,500	<u>8.2</u> 30,000 - 34,999
<u>3.3</u> 3,500 - 4,999	<u>3.3</u> 35,000 - 39,999
<u>2.7</u> 5,000 - 6,999	<u>3.8</u> 40,000 - 44,999
<u>4.9</u> 7,000 - 8,999	<u>—</u> 45,000 - 49,999
<u>5.5</u> 9,000 - 10,999	<u>1.6</u> 50,000 - 54,999
<u>7.7</u> 11,000 - 12,999	<u>1.1</u> 55,000 - 64,999
<u>5.5</u> 13,000 - 14,999	<u>1.6</u> 65,000 - 74,999
<u>16.4</u> 15,000 - 19,999	<u>—</u> 75,000 - 84,999
<u>18.6</u> 20,000 - 24,999	<u>—</u> 85,000 - 99,999
<u>12.0</u> 25,000 - 29,999	<u>1.1</u> Over 100,000

$N = 183$

5. Are you: 36.6% Single

53.2 Married

$N = 186$

6.5 Separated, divorced, or widowed

3.8 Other

6. How many children are currently living with you at home?

7.75 children

$N = 183$

Mode = 0

We hope you found this questionnaire interesting. Thank you for your help and cooperation.