Wilderness Permit Fee Comment letter 11/30/2019

Dear Leadership of Willamette and Deschutes Forests:

My husband and I horseback ride, camp, volunteer and take youth into the wildernesses of our Forests. Please consider my comments here. I know you don’t have an easy job and we appreciate all your efforts on behalf of our wilderness condition and experience.

The fee for day use should be $ 5.00 per person total including the Admin Fee.

The overnight fee is just about right.

The fees generated should first and for most be used to keep the roads, trail heads, and trails open in the areas that theses fees are being generated, then enforcements and then resource restoration. Once they have been used to do theses thing and if there is any money left then to be used on promoting additional recreation experiences in the same Wilderness areas. The fees should never be used for Logging promotion or back into the General fund.

Recommend that 50% of the Reservation Fee be returned up to about one week before date of the permit. After one week before, the permit fees are non-refundable. This is to discourage folks from reserving these permits, locking up preferred dates/weekends, just to cancel them later when they know better about their plans but in the meantime they have reduced the odds for other people also trying to get these limited permits.

I think if you were to consider an annual Pass should be about 250.00 per person.

I think the amount of’ DAY of’passes should be none or only about 1-2 passes. The more passes you have available the day of reduces the amount that are available to those how have pre planned and pre-prepared (Which is what everybody should be doing going into the Wilderness)

Volunteers should be able to get free passes for sure if they are going into do Trail work, with volunteer agreements in place. They should also be given Annual passes after 30 hours of work done the previous year.

I understand that The FS in considering Waiving fees this should only be done for Lower income people maybe for folks who qualify for the Oregon Trail card and maybe veterans. I think it is judgmental to do this for a particular ethnic or sexual orientations.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Becky and Matt Hope

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