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Comments: Special Recreation Permit Fee Next step in changes coming to Central Cascades wilderness areas

The following are my comments regarding the proposed Special Recreation Permit Fee:

First, since the fee is per person, and since the online acquisition of the permit costs extra for processing, a couple who wanted to hike would have to pay \$8 just for the initial permit, then additional fees for trailhead parking and transportation. This adds up to a significant investment for a single hike in our public lands. There should not be a fee for the permit.

Second, there is no mention of an annual permit as was discussed and generally committed to during the public comment period. For hikers who live in the Sisters area and recreate on a regular basis at the 19 trails covered by your proposed fees, constant payment of the fees will make hiking untenable for all but those who are rich enough to pay. Again, these are our public lands, and you are effectively prohibiting the less well off from hiking on the trails near our community. This is not acceptable. A low cost annual fee would at least make it possible to hike throughout the summer without having to pay constant one-off permit fees.

Finally, you have waived the fee for children, but not for seniors. This is great for families, but it discriminates against the senior population who can least afford to pay the fees. Please give seniors the option of buying a low cost discounted annual pass, or a no cost permit.

Thank you,

Sherry Brainerd

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