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First name: Corina

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Recreation Fees

I have to say how disappointed I am to hear there may be a fee to enjoy the great outdoors. But, with that I am so disappointed in how many people leave parking lots and trails with garbage. I used to enjoy all these trails with limited amounts of people. I have watched the popularity grow on the trails causing the parking lots to be full. It can be frustrating, but also I can't get to annoyed for people exploring the outdoors. Social media has really brought an attraction to exploring. I do understand there has to be staff to better monitor and clean up these trails and it all cost money. But, I have to express to you how I got into hiking. I was a stay at home mom when my children were younger with living on one income. During the recession my husband came home from a military deployment overseas to no job. We barely got by on his new income. This was when I started exploring and hiking with my boys. This was a free activity for us. Sometimes, gas money was even difficult for me to justify driving to a new trail to hike. But, I always figured it out. We always packed a lunch and it was the beginning of hiking for my family. I remember at the end of that summer that we started really exploring Oregon, both my kids said that was the most fun summer break we have ever had!!! The continue to talk about that summer, because it was our first year of seeing things for the first time literally in our backyard. They didn't have a clue how difficult that year was with us financial. Just being out in the outdoors took my stress and worries away. The kids and I had a blast! It was always an adventure and so exciting to see a waterfall or a lake for the first time. My boys are young adults now and we continue to hike as a family. But, I look back at how we made the most of our difficult year by exploring Oregon and the joy it brought to my family. I would hate to see a charge to something that I feel is our American right to public lands for all to enjoy at no financial cost.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Corina Seamons

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