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First name: timoteo

Last name: jeffries

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fw: Oregon trail fees

I'm writing to register my opinions re aspects of the Forest Service's plans to charge/raise fees for recreating on National Forests within Oregon.

From the first day the "Forest Circus" concocted the odious "Trail Fees" scheme I voiced my strong opposition. This ill-conceived slap at people who want to experience the beauty and rejuvenation by hiking and camping in our public lands is nothing more, nothing less, than another transfer of wealth from humans to corporados that see nature as only another commodity to grab from us and privatize. As I've written before, poorer citizens are negatively impacted more than all others, as trail fees represent a much higher percentage of their funds than the 1%ers and other rich people; often, it's the only recreation they can afford for their families. With the newly proposed significant raise in its fees, citizens with meager funds will be very disproportionately damaged.

The scheme favors corporations--many of which are transnationals--that have employed and/or will employ the very bureaucrats who are obligated by law to protect our lands from the obvious, egregious, long-lived abuses by the same corporados that only want more and more and ever-more. The USFS is charged with uses of our forests and other lands under its purview that will benefit all humans equally, not just its corporate friends and possible monetary benefactors.

I agree we need to implement means to lower damage public lands from overuse. This "Trail Fees" scheme is not what is needed, especially when the price to enjoy and participate keeps rising for humans. One simple, logical and more equitable way to aid our Forests would be to stop giving them away to your corporate allies: in the form of absurdly low grazing fees, and killing natural predators, for the increased profits for commercial, corporate ranching; massive, indisputably destructive clear-cutting massacres of huge areas of Forests, especially in more fragile, steep terrain; for motorized vehicles at no, or extremely low fees, especially given the much higher damage they cause; favoring commercial pack trains over lower-impact individual users; destructive "exercises" by the Pentagon; widespread use of herbicides known to be carcinogenic or causing long-term damage to the balance of ecosystems; support of "sport hunting" that is often abused and causes the death of some of the best examples of a species--completely the opposite of natural culling; etc. Corporations, not humans, are behind these abuses, but we are always the ones who have to pay.

If the USFS were to finally charge corporate users/abusers fees anywhere nearly commensurate with the damages they perpetrate there would most likely be no budget issues at all and, therefor, no more of the same,

tired excuses used to raise pay-to-play fees for the rest of us. Stop making us pay for the true welfare bums.
Manage our National Forests for us fairly and equally, and not as a commodity.

Tim Jeffries
Bend, OR