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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wilderness Permit System - My public comment

I am absolutely dead set against this. I just attended a two-day "Oregon Trail Summit" in Roseburg and heard over and over again about "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion", along with sessions on how to overcome access obstacles.

1. This is discriminatory to people who have less disposable income than others - it creates an obstacle to access. Less disposable income people can be either low income or fixed income. In the fixed income category, it's discriminatory to seniors.

2. It turns the USFS into an enforcement agency rather than an enabling agency. And I still haven't heard how they intend to enforce this as all I ever hear is that they don't have the resources to do the job they currently have. And I know this to be a fact, as I spend 100's of hours per year helping to maintain horse camps and clear trail. If volunteers don't do it, it doesn't get done. These same volunteers are the people you intend to charge for use of our forests, equal to everyone else. You'll charge everyone equally, whether they donate time directly to maintaining the very trails you're permitting, or whether they do nothing but consume.

3. The USFS was negligent and entirely mundane in their pursuing a permit & fee system before testing other options: a. Shut Travel Oregon and other tourist-generating entities down on their incredibly successful campaign to secure tourist dollars, no matter the cost to our trails --- b. Change the message of those agencies whose purpose it is to draw in tourism -- have them focus on sustainability and emphasize lesser-used trails when telling people where to "experience" Oregon, c. Utilize Mt. Bachelor and add multiple hiking trails that lead to the top - visitors can "have the experience", get the nice views, and beat up one mountain that can be maintained through the income such visits generate. They'd never know the difference.

4. To charge for access to horse trails that emanate from horse camps is ridiculous. Now we have to pay to camp, as well as pay to ride?

5. To be charged for the use of my own public lands is so wrong, on so many levels. All this does is disincentivize, if that's a word, my love of volunteering to care for these places.

Anne Wolff,

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