

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/18/2019 11:57:49 PM

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Title:

Comments: Feedback on Deschutes / Central Cascades wilderness permit fee

I would like to provide my whole hearted support for the proposed wilderness use fee for various Central Cascade trails, such as Green Lake and Tam McArthur Rim. As 30 plus year residents of Bend, my wife and I have hiked these trails for years and personally witnessed the vastly increased usage and damage to trails that has occurred. We have also been repeat hikers on the Obsidian Trail and have gladly paid the fee to obtain a permit based on limited entry. The difference in experience is significant.

While it's sad that we have come to this point, due to population growth and successful tourism promotion, it's clear that going to a permit / fee based system is warranted. We will gladly pay the small fee to reclaim trails and a less trampled and crowded experience. Thank you for the actions being taken in this regard.

We remain concerned about where the traffic now going to these popular trails will relocate and what steps should be taken proactively to prevent the degradation of other trails.

Best regards,

John Farwell

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