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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fees

I am opposed to more fees being required for the use of public lands for day use or overnight camping for small groups and families. I already have to pay a fee just to park in a wilderness area. I have to pay a processing fee for special wilderness area entry.

This summer, I wanted to have our boy scout troop of 10 camp in the Obsidian Limited use entry area. On May 1st, at 7am, the very moment the permits came available, I was online. Before I could click reserve, all overnight permits for the time we planned to go were gone as well as our alternate dates. Luckily I was able to get a pass through permit that allowed us to show the boys the area and get to our vehicles. I am not sure who reserved all of the permits that quickly but suspect large commercial backpacking outfitters. I agree that these wilderness areas are fragile and should be protected but if all of the wilderness areas become controlled by large commercial entities making it impossible for small groups to have access, the system is broken in allowing the public access to the beautiful outdoor areas in Oregon. While in the Obsidian area and around the South Sister access point, we encountered large (20+) groups of teens being led by a few leaders, assuming large commercial summer camp entities.

Sincerely, Josh Wieland, Oregon resident