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First name: Sarah

Last name: Stahl

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments on proposed fees for day and overnight use

Thank you for accepting feedback on proposed changes. I'm an avid hiker and sometimes backpacker in the proposed fee wilderness areas.

While I think that we need to take action to reduce impacts- I think immediately charging fees is not the right solution. Roll out the limited permit system first and see how that goes and if impacts lessen. Also, is there a guarantee that the money will be used to improve those same areas? I don't like that there's an additional fee to recreation.gov.

Mostly, I'm concerned that we're turning wilderness areas into "pay to play" area that more directly impact lower income people and families. Wealthy folks and tourists might be able to pay the extra fees- with little impact to their budget. But additional cost may over-discriminate against lower income families who have just as much right to enjoy wilderness as others. Wilderness exploration shouldn't be an elite activity.

Personally, I'd like the Forest Service to come up with a way to charge more to out of town users- people travelling specifically to use the areas- and less to locals- as tourists have higher impacts due to climate change/carbon footprint, etc.. Also I'd like to be guaranteed that money will be used to reduce impacts at those sites (e.g. install pit toilet at Green Lakes trailhead to reduce human waste), education at sites about proper use, and more foot patrol for ticketing folks that are misusing.

Thanks for listening-

Sarah Stahl

1315 NW Quincy Ave

Bend, OR 97703