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Organization:

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Comments: Wilderness Use Permits

I wish there was not a need for permits for public lands, however, those who have abused the privilege of access to these lands have now placed you, the agency tasked with managing the resources, in a tough position of increased cost for enforcement, trail management, search and rescue, etc. While I believe we pay plenty of taxes to cover these costs, an ideal situation would be for the Federal Government to prove their case for the need of additional funds to continue to manage our resources (total transparency).

Bottom line: Responsible users have now been burdened with the cost and abuse of irresponsible users.

Fee Structure: I believe both local and visiting individuals to wilderness areas have abused and/or caused overuse of our wilderness areas. However, I also believe that local residents have greater access and therefore, greater awareness of possible abuse or overuse. I would like to see a fee structure that leaves room for "community service" in exchange for the cost of permits, thus favoring local residents.

For Example:

Annual Pass: \$250 per person or \$50 per person + 8 hours community service (anything the Forest Service needs help with including permit processing, trail management, campsite clean up, fences, signage, maps, etc.)

Per use: \$5 per day per person (i.e. 1 day use = \$5; 1 overnight = \$10; no additional "group" cost) or 5 free days per 1 hour of community service

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