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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Willamette NF Rec fees

To whom it may concern,

I have been backpacking the jefferson wilderness since I was 5 (so 36 years).

I do not feel the proposed fees are reasonable. These are places in our own backyards, they are not the same as glacier national Park or the enchantments. I spent many, many days hiking in the jefferson wilderness all over last summer and do not find it to be overly crowded most places.

If there is to be a permit system with a fee it should be per group per night as the current Pamela lake system - not per person per night. \$70 for a family of four for a 3-4 night trip is not reasonable and does not reflect the costs of that family enjoying the area.

What I feel would make a way bigger difference than limiting access and charging a bunch of money is: do more public education about leave no trace. Have people get a leave no trace permit after going through a one or two hour class especially around pooping in the wilderness. If campfires are banned and you tell people to pack out their toilet paper, the impacts would be way less. People still think it's OK to leave their toilet paper in a 1 inch deep hole. If we do an education system or a hiker permit (similar to a hunting or fishing license) that includes LNT training/videos I feel this would benefit the wilderness much more than these overly restrictive permits which hurt lower income Oregonians much more disproportionately than higher income people.

\$6 total for a group of less than 9 people for 1-3 nights is fine. \$30-70 is not. Also why are you putting permits at trailheads that get very little use? It just makes everything harder to plan and is stressful for users. Put a permit at Marion lake - fine- but why put one at pine ridge where you hardly ever see anyone? It just feels like it's going to be too hard to plan all this out and get in there. Wilderness is supposed to be wild, not this tightly controlled. Teach people to be good stewards of the land and then do reasonable amounts Of limiting in very popular areas to distribute use more evenly. I just don't see this plan helping the root causes.

I'd rather have 100 people in a wilderness who are skilled at LNT and pack out their TP than 10 who leave garbage in a fire ring, listen to loud music, don't completely put their fire out, stomp all over off trail and leave toilet paper barely buried under rocks everywhere. They are going to have a huge impact. Your proposal does NOTHING to educate ignorant users about LNT which is the true root of the problem.

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