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First name: Irene
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Oregon Forest Service Plan

I am writing to express my opposition to your planned fees and quotas for wilderness areas in Oregon. I've backpacked through the areas affected and can tell you from personal experience that these are indeed beautiful areas worthy of protection. The proposed plan is too dramatic, not taking into account longer section hikers (for example, if I get a permit but am delayed by weather or injury, the permit is no longer valid, my husband and I have section-hiked the entire Oregon PCT and this would indeed describe our experience) or limited income. The backpacking fee of $5 a night per person, for a family wanting to go out for a long weekend, is too steep a price to pay. This will restrict wilderness use to a wealthy (and high-tech) few. What about buying permits in person, with cash and no $6 processing fee? That fee is more that one night of camping! Please consider that not everyone wants to do transactions on-line, or with credit cards. I have no problem spending money that will go towards the rehabilitation and protection of our natural resources. I do have a problem with a $6 processing fee to an outside firm.

Please reconsider this drastic plan and how the wilderness is currently used (by backpackers, long section hikers, PCT thru-hikers, families, day hikers, etc). People should be encouraged to spend time in nature, not dissuaded by high fees to unknown companies and non-flexible permits.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,
Irene Schoppy
Corvallis, Oregon