

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/12/2019 11:53:32 PM

First name: Dennis

Last name: Lipscomb

Organization:

Title:

Comments: wilderness permits

Hello

I am an avid hiker and backpacker and have lived in Bend for 30 years. I have seen the number of people increase on the trails and I believe that more wilderness rangers in the area would help "educate" the public and also be able to identify the abusers. We need to see if this program will actually work.

I have read two articles in the newspapers and read the Deschutes National Forest website. I found that the information found there differs. One does not state the actual trail heads to be effected and the fees are different. This is very confusing for the public.

There should be no fees for wilderness permits. When the parking fees were put in place, we were told that this revenue would pay for more wilderness rangers and trail maintenance. It has not.

This fee system will make it extremely difficult for the hard working people of the area to enjoy the outdoors. Recreation is becoming a wealthy only activity! Parking fees, permit fees and vehicle gas will mean that the average family will pay \$40 for one recreation day. That is absurd!

If a limited wilderness permit program is put in place, people who can afford these fees will apply for many of them in order to make sure the weather is good for their hiking experience. Where does that leave the other hikers?

July 1st through Labor Day are the busiest months for recreation. If there needs to be limited use, make it during this time.

Chris Lipscomb