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Comments: Public Comment on Special Recreation Permit Fee

I have serious concerns on the permit fees for accessing the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wilderness areas in 2020. In an effort to limit user impact to these wilderness areas on our public lands through on line reservation permits, only those with the money and quick internet access will be able to these wilderness areas. People with limited income and internet access will be at a serious disadvantage to enjoy these areas. This is a very undemocratic means to protect these wilderness areas. These wilderness areas are on public lands and need to be accessible to all the public, not restricted to those who have internet access.

How do backpackers section hiking traveling through Oregon section of the Pacific Crest Trail supposed to cross over these 3 wilderness areas in a single trip? Having to submit for separate wilderness passes is unrealistic as the logistics of long distance hiking need to be flexible. Someone hiking from Cascade Locks to California on the PCT, could easily be unable to travel from Mt. Jefferson through Three Sisters Wilderness areas in a timely manner or blocked altogether.

I agree these wilderness areas need protection from over use. The forest service needs to budget more rangers to educate people on leave no trace practices and ensure fragile areas are not over used and to encourage people to use lesser used trails.

Ted Remillard