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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Deschutes permits/Fees

I am writing to provide my comments on the proposed fees. Let me start by saying I am extremely skeptical that any public comments will sway the ultimate decision. It seems like these comments are solicited not for true input, but to satisfy a check box that comments were sought.

That said, I like many others have no issue paying a fee to access our public lands. Should I need to? Of course not, but congressional budgets often neglect areas such as the USFS. It is what it is. With a fee inevitable I want to comment on the limitation of permits. The permit limits I have seen seem ridiculously low. Almost so low that their purpose is self-defeating. Let me explain: You set a fee of \$3-\$5 to hike at Todd Lake with the intent to use this money to maintain the use of the trails. But when you limit this to 10-12 permits a day your are collecting \$60 per day tops? Even over the course of the collection months you will not come close to collecting enough money to maintain the area, and that's assuming 100% of the receipts go to actual trail maintenance (with the reality that you will probably need to use some of said money to hire more officers just to enforce the laws...)

So, I would prefer to see the limits higher. Even you estimate the 2019 usage and cut that in half you're still well above the 12/day limit at a place like Todd Lake.

Naturally I would like to see some sort of access exception for local residents, perhaps by residential zip code or a pre-registry to verify locality. Those of us that live, work and contribute the tax base of Central Oregon should have preferred status over visitors from out of the area or state.

Thank you,
Sean Buck
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