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Comments: Wilderness permit Fee

The proposed fees are far too high. They will only go higher in upcoming years. It is like a cigarette tax. Put in place to curve cigarette use. But in reality, it funds pet projects and other things. I have seen where the proposal will cost a family of 4 to backpack for three days. \$66. That is crazy. To charge anything is wrong. There are many low income families this will price out of their own wilderness areas. The fees look appetizing to forest service admins because they know there is a group of people that will pay it. Keep it free. Volunteers help in great numbers throughout the forests. Use them to help patrol the permitted areas. What is a ranger going to do when they find someone in the area that did not pay? They are in the middle of a wilderness trying to collect money. That puts the ranger in danger. Big danger. Try a limited access permit over a couple years for free and see how it goes. Too many risks and people being left out with the current plan.

Charlie Bottita