

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/13/2019 11:57:23 PM

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Comments: proposed trail fees

For nearly 20 years I worked as a professional recreationist and certified park and recreation professional by the National Park and Recreation Association. During that time working for such entities as the Vancouver, Washington Park and Recreation Department and the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, I have watched the introduction of and increased expansion of the "Pay to Play" rationale. I find it not only counter productive to our education of young people and families in regards to the great outdoor opportunities that exist in the nation but a restrictive and prejudicial attempt to deny those who are financially challenged from enjoying the same outdoor experiences more wealthy individuals and families can access.

Since the Pay to Play paradigm is evidently here to stay because we are constantly pressured to provide more for less and have been unable to figure out how to do that without charging the public (who have already paid their taxes), I would suggest that you please consider that people and families who are on the Oregon Trail Card program be exempted from such fees and charges. It would be a small gesture but one that some people might very much appreciate. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Don Senecal

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