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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am writing in regards to the proposed new fees for the Mount Jefferson, Three Sisters and Mount Washington wilderness areas.

I recognize the overuse issues in these wilderness areas and see the need to mitigate the impact.

If the fees will be used to add new trails in the area I am in agreement. However if their purpose is merely to discourage use, I must object. As fees will undoubtedly rise over time this will present a barrier to the economically disadvantaged who already have limited recreational opportunities. Hiking has always been one of the most democratic of American activities and should remain so.

In addition, I must strenuously object to the additional "processing fee" particularly the \$6 backpacking fee. Surely it doesn't cost six times as much to process a backpacking reservation as a hiking reservation? Since this fee will no doubt be paid to a private contractor it is especially egregious that they profit off our public lands while the only public benefit is limiting access.

Sincerely,

Jotham Lefford

Eugene OR