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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to Proposed Special Recreation Wilderness Permit fee for DES and WIL

Hello:

Below are my comments to your proposed fees for the special recreation permit fee for the Deschutes and Willamette National Forest.

1 - I believe the special recreation permit fee at \$3 per person for day use and \$5 per person per night for overnight is reasonable, especially knowing that all of that money will be retained by the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests to support the stewardship of these wilderness areas. What is not reasonable is the total cost one will have to pay to enjoy these wilderness areas. By total cost I mean your forest special recreation permit fees in addition to the reservation fee and then the Northwest Forest Pass fee for parking at the trailheads. If my wife and I want to visit one of the limited entry trails for the day it would be a total of \$13 (\$5 for NW Recreation Day Pass + \$6 for special recreation permit fee + \$2 reservation fee); okay that is more than we would like to pay but we would pay that amount. If my wife and I want to go camping for two nights (hiking three days) where an overnight use permit is required it would be a total of \$41 (\$15 for NW Recreation Day Passes + \$20 for the special recreation permit fee + \$6 reservation fee), that is getting on the steep side for two nights in the wilderness. At \$41 for two nights (three days) we would likely look elsewhere to tent camp.

Recommendation: Since you can't control the Northwest Forest Pass fee nor the reservation fee then to make the overnight camping more reasonable it might be necessary to reduce the \$5 per person per night to \$3 per person per night.

2 -Recommendation: Allow those with an interagency pass a 50% discount to the special recreation wilderness fee.

3 -Suggestion: Agree that it is reasonable that if you cancel a trip in advance that the special recreational permit fee be refunded (a week for overnight use and two days for a day use). I would like to think that if the recreation.gov fee did not get refunded that you could at least apply that fee to make another reservation on reservation.gov.

4 - Suggestion: When negotiating your next contract with recreation.gov you should have the leverage to negotiate what I believe are more realistic fees for overnight permits. Why does the overnight permit cost \$6 and the day permit cost \$1 for practically the same work on recreation.gov's part? You should also negotiate the refund policy as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

=Peter Bolander=

Sent from Outlook