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Title:

Comments: Wilderness Fee

Thank you to Deschutes National Forest for your presentation on Nov 12. Following are a few additional comments I have concerning the upcoming implementation of wilderness fees.

1. Though not sure what percentage of advanced/last minute reservations will be best, I think something along the lines of %40/%60 or %50/%50 would be a reasonable place to start. I would hope that this decision could be changeable in future years based on how it works the first year.

2. I feel "last minute" reservations should not be literally last minute, but rather up to one week ahead. Maybe a percentage of last minute reservations could be one week ahead and the remaining the day before. Again, I would hope this could be reassessed in one year based on how it seems to work out.

3. I hope there will be valuable incentives for cancellations so that permits are not going unused and people are missing out on opportunities to hike on a particular day.

4. Based on the low number of daily permits at some of the trailheads, I would hope that the number of people allowed on one permit would be less than the 12 allowed for wilderness camping. Perhaps a maximum of 6 on a day use permit.

Could you respond to a few questions?

1. Will a forest pass still be acceptable at trailheads even though a parking permit will be included with the day permit? Some groups may have only one wilderness day permit but have more than one car.

2. I would anticipate some hikers applying for an overnight permit even though they are not planning to camp. More expensive, but gets them on the trail. Is this something that would be acceptable or considered an abuse of the system?

3. Will any senior discounts be offered on Recreation.gov?

4. Will a person be able to make multiple reservations at one time (i.e. different trailheads on different days?)

Thank you for your time and the efforts you make to protect our wilderness areas.

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