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First name: Melissa

Last name: Nicolli

Organization:

Title:

Comments: special recreation permit fee

Hello,

I am writing to voice my concern with the special recreation permit fee that is proposed to go into regulation in 2020. As someone who works within the natural resource field, I understand the need for land managers to protect and conserve these wild spaces. However, I think that increasing permit fees and requiring day use fees for select trailheads is a poor decision. What I see it ultimately doing is further preventing people of lower income and less privilege, who have historically been kept from outdoor recreating, the chance to experience this wilderness. I have always felt, as I know many of my peers have, that enjoying public lands is a special experience, made even better by the fact that it is something people can do without needing to spend much money. It is land that Americans can freely recreate on.

Having lived in Central Oregon for several years now, I have explored many parts of these designated wilderness areas. I have purchased a NW Forest Pass every summer and feel at ease knowing that all I need is some gas in my vehicle, water, snacks and my own two feet to take me somewhere wonderful. I am curious how the NW Forest Pass will be affected? Or if people will need to have that and then pay an additional fee at the trailhead.

I fully support the limited number of permits into high use areas that are already being severely degraded. However, day use fees and increased overnight permit fees seems like a way to keep people of privilege enjoying these lands and keeping everyone else out.

I hope that you will reconsider these new special recreation permit fees and decide to forgo making these proposed changes.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comment and have a wonderful day!

Best,

Melissa Nicolli