Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/5/2019 5:06:37 PM
First name: Eric
Last name: Squires
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Comment on Special Recreation Permit Fee

Greetings Esteemed USDA Staff reviewing Special Recreation Permit Fees;

Eric Squires here. Visiting these special places is a highlight of my life. Thank you for protecting their beauty. That task of protection is made difficult with the growth of Oregon's population, and our expanding tourist industry.

Versus fees, please advocate for budget needs via elected officials with the concept of 'indexing'. Example: "We support 10% of Oregon's population as guests in the lands we are tasked to care for over the course of a summer. As Oregon's growth is 3% per year, and inflation is another 3% per year, we need our budget indexed at minimum of 6% before we are able to address additional requests."

My income is wildly unpredictable, so fees are inconsequential or a deal breaker. Creative solutions I like for addressing such issues include "Cultural Passes" that may be checked out at libraries: https://culturalpass.wccls.org/ Please consider internship, volunteer, and work related programs that may foster stewardship. As a governmental agency, you are in a position to facilitate a partnership with higher education to allow students to earn credit in exchange for resource protection.

The sad irony is that as a taxpayer, I'm troubled by participating in online marketplace for getting access to trails (like Obsidian Falls) and paying again for access to a resource I have already funded by taxes.

Thanks for your work on this complicated issue.

Respectfully,

Eric Squires

--

Eric Squires, Broker

Cell: 503-807-3899
Licensed in the State of Oregon
License Number: 201102006
All Professionals Real Estate
20001 SW Tualatin Valley Hwy
Beaverton OR, 97003
Office: 503.259.2100 Agency Disclosure