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First name: Larry

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fee-Only Access to Three Wilderness Areas in Oregon

Dear Forest Service Administrator:

I backpack, hike and explore federal lands at least 12 times a year. The fees proposed would make it difficult to access these public lands and I would be deterred from my usual normal activities within these lands.

These fees would be unprecedented. Willamette National Forest and Deschutes National Forest are the first national forests in the U.S. to try to implement a fee system across three wilderness areas that will charge all overnight users and 19 trailhead day users across over 450,000 acres.

The amount of the fee is exorbitant. For example, for an 8-person group that seeks to complete a 10-day backpacking trip in the area, the fee will jump from its current amount of \$0 to \$406 (\$5/person/day &#43; \$6 reservation fee).

The proposed fee violates FLREA, which prohibits charging for general access, hiking, horseback riding, dispersed camping, and other uses.

Traveling on foot through a Wilderness Area is not a &quot;specialized recreation use&quot; within the meaning of the FLREA. The plain language of the statute limits permit fees specifically to uses such as group activities, recreation events, and motorized recreational vehicle use. Activities such as hiking, walking, horseback riding, and dispersed camping are wholly outside the scope of the specialized activities Congress intended to cover.

Please reject this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

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&quot;The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge.&quot; --Bertrand Russell