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Organization:

Title:

Comments: comments on fees

I am writing to you with concern over the proposed recreation permit fees. We already have a problem with equitable access in the outdoors. Because of the required gear, backpacking is already a somewhat pricey endeavor that not everyone can afford. Less so with day hiking, but if one follows Leave No Trace then the acquisition of all the necessary gear to be properly prepared for a day hike can also be a hurdle for some low-income families.

With these proposed fees I worry that recreating in wilderness will become something that is no longer possible for some people. The cost of living and recreating in certain parts of Oregon - including the closest major cities to the Willamette and Deschutes - continues to skyrocket. We are headed on a path where wilderness access will soon be something only the rich can afford.

I understand that the Forest Service is grossly underfunded, which is greatly frustrating. I don't know what the answer is, but this does not seem like the right path.

Cheryl Hill
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