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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Willamette and Deschutes National Forests Wilderness Fees

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

These are my personal comments about the U.S. Forest Service (FS) proposal to charge general access fees (\$5/person/day and \$6 reservation fee) for people to visit the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wilderness Areas in the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests.

I oppose this proposal. I and other citizens in the U.S. own these national forests, these public lands. I should not be charged to visit them. This is a general access fee masquerading as a "specialized recreation use" fee. This is illegal under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). I object.

Walking through wilderness is not a "specialized recreation use" under the law. Walking in wilderness is not a group activity, recreation event, and motorized recreation vehicle use action. Hiking, walking, horseback riding, and low-impact, dispersed, camping, are not activities that can be charged a general access fee under the FLREA.

I request that the FS withdraw this proposal and never again attempt to charge for general access to my public lands.

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