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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Fw: Hhiking and Undeveloped Camping are not "Specialized Uses"

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From: &quot;Peter&quot; &lt;peterrpm@yahoo.com&gt;

To: &quot;willammetterecfeecomments@usda.gov&quot;

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Cc:

Sent: Wed, Nov 20, 2019 at 12:39 PM

Subject: Hhiking and Undeveloped Camping are not &quot;Specialized Uses&quot;

Recreation Committee Members/US Forest Service:

I am writing to oppose the Forest Service proposal to deem hiking and undeveloped camping as some sort of &quot;specialized use&quot; of public lands. Up to this point in time- and under the terms of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act- specialized uses have been defined as such things as large commercial activities, use of highly developed boat launches, etc. The definition has not included individuals accessing public lands. Quite the opposite, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act specifically prohibits fees from being imposed for individual access to public lands and undeveloped camping.

I live in Southern California, and quite honestly it is not very likely that anytime soon I will be hiking in Wilderness Areas of Oregon. Nonetheless, I do quite often take -&quot;unspecialized&quot;- day hikes here in the local mountains. It used to be that I was forced to pay the Forest Service \$5 to park my car on the shoulder of a California state highway in order to go for a day hike. Thankfully, a few years ago the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated this and many other aspects of how the Forest Service was -with intent- circumventing the law.

I would urge committee members to turn away from this attempt by the US Forest to unilaterally impose this new precedent. I would instead ask you to follow the already established precedent of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals (fragosa v. usfs) which has given the US Forest Service guidelines regarding adherence to law. Moreover, I would ask that you do not absorb everything you are given by this federal bureaucracy without employing at least a small amount of scepticism.

Sincerely,

Peter Wiechers

Long Beach, California

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