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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Recreation Fees

Dear Willamette and Deschutes National Forests,

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

NO fees for overnight camping or hiking in Forest Service wilderness areas!

USDA Forest Service gives away public forest logging permits at prices so low that they have consistently sustained vast losses of public money, as well as contributed substantially to deforestation, massive erosion, and anthropogenic heating of the entire planet.

USDA Forest Service gives away public money to private special interests through grazing fees at a small percentage of market value, ALSO failing to effectively police fraudulent overgrazing by those private interests - ALL at extreme costs to the public, and increased costs to species in danger of extinction and extirpation,. USDA Forest service ALSO causes increased defense by federal agencies against the endangerment of organisms. this farcical and evil [proposal WILL cause extreme and extended court fight against it which I WILL support, including the permanent ejection from public service employment of those who so wrongly propose or otherwise involves themselves in this wrongful attempt to charge fees for hiking and experiencing public lands

I'm adamantly opposed to your proposal to charge people for merely taking a walk in the in Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington and Three Sisters Wilderness areas in the Oregon Cascades.

Your proposed fee violates the intent and purpose of the Wilderness Act, including protecting Wildernesses from commercialization and commodification.

Wilderness areas belong to all of the American people. They are birthright to citizens, open to all the public and not just those wealthy enough to pay additional fees.

We citizens across the nation ALREADY OWN the Wildernesses in the National Wilderness Preservation System - we have paid for them with our taxes.

These fees would also be illegal under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act and would exclude the public from accessing and enjoying their public lands.

The Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington && Three Sisters Wilderness Areas already plan to require limited-access permits starting next year to prevent overcrowding and resource damage.

I support quotas to protect Wilderness from being over-run by people, I'm adamantly opposed to the USFS charging hikers a fee to walk in Wilderness.

This fee proposal is unprecedented. NO to fee system Wilderness areas for overnight OR day use.

USFS is incorrectly claiming authority for charging such fees under a clause in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) as"specialized recreation uses" such as group activities, recreation events, and motorized recreational vehicles.

Congress never meant that to apply to private individuals who are hiking, walking, and camping in a completely undeveloped part of a national forest.

Such fees would set a horrible national precedent for other Wilderness areas around the country and I urge you

to abandon your fee scheme for the Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington and Three Sisters Wilderness.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,
Michael McLaughlin
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