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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Recreation Fees

Dear Willamette and Deschutes National Forests,

U.S. Forest Service:

The proposal to charge fees for walking in the in the Mount Jefferson, Mount Washington, & Three Sisters Wilderness areas in the Oregon Cascades is absurd. It's one thing to charge a fee in a managed park full of rangers and visitors centers and maintained trails, but a wilderness area? Give me a break.

Wilderness areas belong to all of the American people. It's wrong to attempt to charge people to visit the Wilderness they already own. 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 and Three Sisters Wilderness Areas already plan to require limited-access permits starting next year to prevent overcrowding and resource damage. While I support quotas to protect Wilderness areas from being over-run by people, I'm very much opposed to the federal government charging hikers a fee simply to take a walk in the Wilderness.

These proposed fees would set a horrible national precedent for other Wilderness areas around the country. Please toss this plan in the bin.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Shannin Zevian
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